

# Battle Through the Heavens

(斗破苍穹)

Chapter

600-699

Tian Can Tu Dou

(天蚕土豆)

## Story Description:

In a land where no magic is present. A land where the strong makes the rules and weak has to obey. A land filled with alluring treasures and beauty yet also filled with unforeseen danger. Xiao Yan, who has shown talents none had seen in decades, suddenly three years ago lost everything, his powers, his reputation, and his promise to his mother. What sorcery has caused him to lose all of his powers? And why has his fiancée suddenly shown up?

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

# Chapter 600: Great and Terrible Explosion

Xiao Yan's soft, cold laughter was just like throwing a basin of cold water into oil. Immediately, a wave of blood-red majestic Dou Qi came surging out in all directions from within the body of the ferocious looking Fan Lao!

Three shriveled pale-white claw-like hands were abruptly thrust forth, and formed some strange seals with lightning-like speed. One could see that the Dou Qi that was surging out fluctuated a little before a dark-red blood spear that was as thick as two arms swiftly formed and appeared in everyone's eyes.

Fan Lao extended his hand claw as the blood spear took form, grabbing it firmly. He lifted his head and moved his mouth slightly while facing Xiao Yan, revealing his somewhat sharp and dense white teeth.

The wings on his back were flapped abruptly, and a sharp, angry roar immediately carried an incomparable amount of killing intent as it erupted from within Fan Lao's mouth. Under this clear sonic wave, the latter's body appeared to drift with the wind as it turned into an extremely vague blood figure that approached Xiao Yan in a lightning-like manner. The long spear in his hand carried a dense wind as it viciously pierced toward Xiao Yan's heart.

Although Fan Lao's Dou Qi did not show any traces of soaring after using the so-called 'Blood Transformation', his speed had greatly increased. It had even reached the point that many people could only see his body tremble slightly when he moved. When they glanced again, they were shocked to discover that the figure had gradually turned illusionary. Clearly, this was something that would only be left behind when one's speed reached a certain level.

Xiao Yan was able to barely leave behind an afterimage in the past after having used the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement'. However, that afterimage was clearly incomparable to the one that Fan Lao had created.

Of course, the condition that Xiao Yan was in only had the strength of the Dou Ling class. Being able to create an afterimage that even an ordinary expert Dou Wang had great difficulty creating was enough for him to be proud of.

The speed that Fan Lao displayed caused a countless of people to feel completely shocked in their hearts. However, Xiao Yan, who was facing him, had a face that was not visibly moved.

His dark-black eyes reflected a blood-colored light that was swiftly expanding. The next instant, the blood-colored glow suddenly turned into a savage face. That incomparably sharp energy spear passed through the hinderance of the air as it shot over while carrying a thick and cold wind.

“Ding!”

An enormous black shadow suddenly flashed and appeared. Its thick back was just like a shield that stood straight in front of Xiao Yan. The bloody spear heavily pressed against it. Immediately, a gale-like wind curled out wildly. The strength of that wind was such that it even carried the faint sound of thunder.

The wings on Xiao Yan’s back flapped as he took two steps back. His hand shook as he completely blocked the attack of Fan Lao which contained the latter’s anger.

Xiao Yan’s gaze was lifted slightly. It passed over the Heavy Xuan Ruler and saw the dark, cold, savage face of Fan Lao. The latter’s eyes was emitting an incomparable killing intent and bloodiness.

“Little bastard. I want to create a countless number of bloody holes in your body!”

Fan Lao laughed in a savage and creepy manner. The hand which was holding the blood spear suddenly twisted and moved the blood spear away from the ruler. It immediately carried a blood-red glowing arc as it once again pierced forward.

“The current you still doesn’t have that qualification.” Xiao Yan smiled. A thread of silver glow suddenly flashed and appeared in a lightning-like

manner. His body moved and it immediately sprang away from the blood spear in a ghost-like manner. A green flame containing great heat lingered over his clenched fingers as they smashed toward Fan Lao's face without any fancy action.

Fan Lao also became extremely furious when faced with Xiao Yan, who was as slippery as a loach. A similar blood aura lingered over his right hand, and his sharp blade-like fingernail was flicked gently. One could only hear a slight 'Chi' sound as if space had been torn apart at this moment.

Those five fingers were pressed together, becoming like a sharp bloody sword that pierced toward Xiao Yan's fist. The sharp rushing wind was like a sharp blade. The sound of a sharp blade cutting open thin paper caused a person's body to overflow with a certain chill.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly as he sensed the sharp force that was contained within the somewhat strange nail of Fan Lao. From the sound of it, the degree of sharpness of this nail was likely not weaker than the bloody spear. Such a direct collision between that nail his physical fist was extremely disadvantageous toward him.

This thought swiftly flashed within his heart. In a split second, Xiao Yan's arm suddenly trembled, and the green-colored flame that covered his fist suddenly left his hand, turning into a green-colored fireball that shot toward Fan Lao!

The fireball that left his hand was like a cannonball that had just left the shell. The moment it escaped, the temperature that was suppressed earlier completely erupted. Its color immediately became much deeper. Some folds even appeared in the space where the fireball drew past, appearing like the sky of the desert. It became illusionary because of the distortions.

The change in Xiao Yan's attack was in a mere split second. Hence, by the time that Fan Lao sensed it, the dark-green-colored flame had already reached him. The hot temperature still managed to cause his skin to feel waves of searing pain despite being isolated by the Dou Qi cover.

It was already impossible to dodge at such a distance. Therefore, Fan Lao

did not shrink back even a little. Waves of powerful blood-colored Dou Qi poured out from the pores of his skin. Immediately, a blood-colored light film agglomerated and formed on his palm.

“Explode!”

Xiao Yan’s body flashed and withdrew. He eyed the dark-green fireball that was in close proximity with Fan Lao. A clear voice was suddenly emitted as his mouth moved.

A powerful light erupted from the fireball as his voice sounded. Immediately, a loud sound suddenly resounded through the sky. Hot flames curled out in all directions from the point of explosion!

Xiao Yan’s sleeves were waved and a hot ripple that had spread to his front was scattered. His eyes narrowed as he watched the fire wave spread out. In his heart, he clearly knew that an attack of such strength would not be able to wound a strong person like Fan Lao.

As Xiao Yan looked, a blood-colored light pillar suddenly shot and spread out from the fire wave. Fan Lao’s body slowly floated up from within the pillar of light. At this moment, his expression was still ferocious. His right hand lifted the sharp bloody spear high up while his body was half turned, adopting a throwing stance. The blood-colored Dou Qi that was spreading around his body also appeared to have encountered a suction force as it poured unceasingly into the blood spear.

The color of the blood spear grew increasingly darker following a greater amount of Dou Qi being poured in. A moment later, it appeared to have become like solidified fresh blood. Its bloody stench grew increasingly dense, and blood-colored light arcs were emitting cold, bright clusters wherever it passed. The sharp spear seemed to possess the strength to penetrate all defenses!

Xiao Yan’s expression gradually grew serious as the blood-colored spear agglomerated. He could clearly sense that the attack of Fan Lao this time around had truly reached the point where he had put in maximum effort. An attack that contained the full strength of a Dou Huang was sufficient to break a mountain peak. Hence, even with Yao Lao’s support, Xiao Yan

still did not dare to feel the slightest underestimation for it.

The Heavy Xuan Ruler in Xiao Yan's hand was slowly lifted. Waves of powerful green fire Dou Qi surged out from within his body before being poured unceasingly into it.

These two people in the sky who were less than a hundred meters apart had descended into an unusual silence at this moment. However, everyone knew that under this silence was a frightening storm front that was being brewed.

In addition, the release of this storm was happening in the next moment!

The bloody spear in Fan Lao's hand finally ceased its absorption of Dou Qi under the shocked gazes of a countless number of people. At this moment, the blood spear was twisting slightly, and was actually able to create ripples in space. The energy that was contained within it had already reached a terrifying level.

Fan Lao's sharp hand firmly held the repeatedly quivering blood spear. A paleness had surfaced on his ferocious looking face at this instant. Those blood-red eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan while a strange laughter sounded in the sky, "Little bastard. Everything is over!"

The strange laughter had just sounded when Fan Lao ceased providing Xiao Yan with any extra time to gather Dou Qi. His arm suddenly shook, and the blood spear that contained all his strength left it.

"Great Blood Bodhisattva Devourer!"

Countless numbers of people below suddenly felt an extremely dense, bloody scent pouncing over the moment that the blood spear left his hand. Everyone felt as though they were in an abyss despite being under the light of the intense sun. Their bodies felt a chill, and the originally clear sky was also covered by the hazy bloody air. The entire place was desolate and gloomy.

The sudden change in their surroundings caused the fighting in the battleground within the sky to quietly become much duller. Numerous

gazes carried some shock as they were thrown toward where Fan Lao and Xiao Yan were. This was especially when everyone saw the blood-colored long spear that had escaped Fan Lao's hand. Quite a number of experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' immediately let out a surprised cry.

"It is actually the 'Great Blood Bodhisattva Devourer'?"

"Fan Lao was actually forced by that young man to the point of having to use this kind of Dou Technique?"

"This old fellow must have really lost his mind in his anger. He actually even used a Di class Dou Technique. Looks like the black-robed, young man is in a terrible situation. Most of those expert Dou Huangs who died in Fan Lao's hands had lost to this move..."

While shocked cries were being transmitted in the sky, a blood-colored lightning suddenly broke through the barrier in the sky at that moment. It appeared to have teleported, and in the blink of an eye, it carried a disgusting bloody stench as it appeared in Xiao Yan's sight.

A mouthful of scorching hot air was deeply inhaled into Xiao Yan's lungs as the dark-black, massive Heavy Xuan Ruler was being lifted high above his head. At this moment, that black color of it had turned into a deep red one, much like a ruler that contained a flame.

The frightening wind that the blood-colored lightning carried caused the pores all over Xiao Yan's body to tense up. His eyes stared at the bloody color that had broken through the air. An instant later, a sharp, stern cry was emitted and the heavy ruler immediately slashed down angrily. That posture was as though he wanted to split the land!

"Flame Splitting Tsunami!"

A green-colored energy pillar that was over a hundred feet long was instantly shot out from the Heavy Xuan Ruler as the cold, sharp cry was emitted. The air repeatedly shook and broke, forming distortions wherever it passed, much like glass being shattered!

Under a countless number of gazes that contained various kinds of emotions, the green-colored energy pillar appeared for an instant before it

collided with the meteorite-like blood color. The collision caused the color of the sky to change.

At this moment, a truly great and terrifying explosion suddenly occurred!

# Chapter 601: Similar Thought

“Bang!”

The rolling thunder-like explosion that caused mountains to collapse and the land to split suddenly resounded in the distant sky. At that instant, countless people had their ears temporarily deafened under this thunderous sound.

A tornado-like energy ripple erupted from the point of contact between the green-colored energy pillar and the blood-colored energy under the clear sky before sweeping through the entire place as a countless number of shocked gazes watched.

The space became unbearably distorted at the point where the energy came into contact. Deep folds could be clearly seen. This collision of the full forced attack between Xiao Yan and Fan Lao had even caused space itself to be blasted apart. The collision between Dou Huangs was actually this frightening.

The energy storm that was filled with green-colored flame and blood-colored energy was hundreds of feet wide. It appeared like an enormous person that stood between the heavens and earth. As the storm churned violently, the destructive force it emitted also caused the expressions of the numerous strong people in the sky to involuntarily change.

The bottom of the energy storm was connected to the Inner Academy. Countless numbers of buildings were completely destroyed at this moment. Other than the dark-black ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’, all the buildings and even the trees in the surrounding few hundred meters were completely turned into ruins as the storm swept past! That frightening destructive strength caused those students who were hiding from the chaos in the distance to be stunned.

The storm had arrived quickly and disappeared just as quickly. After destroying a corner of the Inner Academy until it was a complete mess, the storm that had swept over gradually weakened before completely disappearing.

The disappearance of the storm caused the somewhat dark, solemn sky to once again recover its cool and bright self. All that was left was a complete mess.

The numerous Elders in the sky looked at the Inner Academy below after the storm had scattered. The corner of their mouths involuntarily twitched a little. If they were to fight a couple more times, it was likely that the Inner Academy would be completely destroyed in this intense battle and would not need the eruption of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' to do so.

Compared to the heartache that the Elders felt at the miserable state of the Inner Academy after the destruction, those strong people from the 'Black-Corner Region' were eyeing the black-robed, young man in the distance with shocked faces. None of them expected Xiao Yan to actually be able to come out unscathed from such a powerful attack by Fan Lao.

"The Dou Technique that this young fellow had used earlier was at least that of the Di class. Otherwise, it would not have been able to completely block Fan Lao's 'Great Blood Bodhisattva Devourer'." Everyone's heart came to a sudden understanding as they recalled the powerful aura of the ruler glow that appeared intent on tearing space itself. They quietly but immediately felt an additional seriousness when facing the young man in the distance. At this class of theirs, an ordinary Xuan class Dou Technique no longer had much of an impact if one wanted to hurt or kill an opponent who had similar strength. Only Di class Dou Techniques could achieve such a miracle. Hence, a Di class Dou Technique was something that truly possessed a threat toward these Dou Wang or even Dou Huang class experts.

However, a Di class Dou Technique was mostly created and left behind by ancient people who possessed great intelligence and opportunity. After all, if one wanted to create a Dou Technique, one would need some luck on top of the harsh requirement of one's strength. Therefore, the experts who had the qualification to create Dou Techniques were all renowned people on the continent, and those who could create Di class Dou Techniques were existences which were as rare as the phoenix feather and unicorn's horn.

Hence, the Di class Dou Technique was a rare item even in the entire continent. If an ordinary second-rate faction were to even obtain one, they would treat it like the greatest treasure of their faction.

Moreover, some of those experts who only knew how to focus on training did not have many Dou Techniques that they could take out on top of their powerful Dou Qi. These kinds of person was extremely common on the continent. It would be fine if they were to fight with others whose strengths were much weaker than them. All they needed was to randomly use Dou Qi attacks to scatter the Dou Techniques that the opponent used. However, if they were to meet an expert whose strength was near theirs, it was likely that they would end up in a miserable state of allowing their opponent finish them off despite being weaker.

One's surface strength was merely a deterrent. The most decisive factor was one's fighting strength. This kind of fighting strength relied on three key factors: one's class and strength, one's Qi Method, and the Dou Techniques one possessed.

If one possessed all three conditions, it was not difficult to leap across levels or even across class to challenge one's opponent... Xiao Yan was such a person. Throughout his journey, most of the opponents whom he had met were stronger than him at the time. However, most of these experts were defeated by him. What he relied on to do this was the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method and his powerful Dou Techniques.

Therefore, a Di class Dou Technique was viewed with greater importance by these experts who were of the Dou Wang class and above compared to any other class. Hence, it was unavoidable that their hearts would feel an envy and even jealousy when they saw that at his young age, Xiao Yan had already mastered a powerful Dou Technique that was sufficient to match the 'Great Blood Bodhisattva Devourer' of Fan Lao.

A pale-whiteness had surfaced onto Fan Lao savage face in the distant sky. Clearly, the powerful 'Great Blood Bodhisattva Devourer' that he had used earlier exhausted him greatly. However, he did not obtain much effect despite using such a powerful Dou Technique. Fan Lao involuntarily felt a kind of desire to vomit blood as he watched the black-robed, young

man who was still standing on the opposite side.

“This little bastard is indeed very strong. It is likely that there would not be much effect if I continue to pester him.” A sharp blade-like fingernail drew past the space and carried a dense, cold luster. It was as dark as Fan Lao’s gaze which caused a person’s heart to feel a chill. “Although I don’t know what has happened, but the strength that had suddenly soared from this fellow shouldn’t belong to him. I think that it must be because he has used some strange Secret Technique. However, the increase from a Secret Technique has a time limit no matter how strange it is. Once that is over, his strength would return to his original class. At that time, killing him will definitely be as easy as flipping one’s hand!”

It must be said that Fan Lao was indeed worthy of being an expert who muddled along in the ‘Black-Corner Region’. He had managed to barely guess something after a couple of exchanges. However, Xiao Yan was also clearly aware of this point. He was not a fool, and would naturally not give Fan Lao any chance to delay time. Since Fan Lao already possessed an intention to kill him, he no longer would be merciful in any of his actions. The best action was to kill the old dog Fan Lao and eliminate any further trouble should he have the opportunity. After all, the effects of a wild, crazy vengeance by an expert Dou Huang would give one a great headache.

This thought flashed across Xiao Yan’s heart and he did not hesitate even a little. With a flip of his hand, he placed the Heavy Xuan Ruler into his storage ring. His speed suddenly soared after having lost the restraint of such a heavy weapon.

A silver-colored glow flashed under his feet emitting a faint thunder roar before his body shook and turned into a black line. It flickered before flashing toward Fan Lao.

Fan Lao, whose focus was on Xiao Yan, sensed something the moment the latter’s body moved. Having already decided to temporarily go into hiding, Fan Lao flipped his blood wings and swiftly shot back.

“You want to escape?”

A loud cold laugh sounded in the sky. Immediately, Xiao Yan's body appeared like a ghost in front of Fan Lao as a faint thunderous roar sounded.

The speed that Xiao Yan had suddenly displayed also caused Fan Lao's expression to change slightly. However, his reaction was quite quick. The moment that Xiao Yan appeared, a sharp nail became just like a blade that pierced toward Xiao Yan's throat.

Xiao Yan did not withdraw but advanced in the face of Fan Lao's sharp attack. The silver glow under his feet strangely flashed and entered a spot near Fan Lao's chest. His five fingers were abruptly clenched as they immediately smashed out violently.

"Bang!"

A circular blood film surfaced as the fist heavily smashed into Fan Lao's chest. The force that was contained in the fist was reduced by over half. Despite this, the remanent force still shook Fan Lao until he withdrew two steps in a miserable manner.

Xiao Yan did not rest or pause after his single attack made contact. His body once again advanced in a lightning-like manner. His arm shook as his fist left behind afterimages. Wind from his fist blew like sharp, cold wind.

Fan Lao completely descended into a disadvantaged state under this wild gale-like close range attack of Xiao Yan. He repeatedly dodged in a miserable manner. Occasionally, a fist from Xiao Yan would strike him heavily due to his carelessness, causing his face to become paler.

Countless number of students in the distance watched Xiao Yan who was showing his might and actually suppressing an expert Dou Huang until the latter had no means to retaliate. Those numerous bright eyes were filled with a wild passion that was difficult to hide.

If one's gaze were shifted to the entire battleground in the sky, one would see human figures flashing and hear the repeated explosions that was created from Dou Qi clashing together. Occasionally, there would be a strong person who would fall away from the battleground. From the

swaying appearance of that figure, it was clear that the person was quite badly injured. What caused everyone to feel a little comfort was that the experts who had left the battleground injured did not consist only of the Elders in the Jia Nan Academy. Some of those from the 'Black-Corner Region' were also wounded after receiving the combined attack of a couple of people in the chaotic battleground.

Of course, the battle circle which was the determining factor in this attempt at snatching the 'Heavenly Flame' was still the one between Su Qian and the Gold Silver Elders. Everyone's gaze turned to the battle that was far away from the battleground, but could only hear the loud 'bang's' from the collisions. It was difficult for one to sense any human figure with one's naked eye. All they could do was vaguely see three human figures pestering one another repeatedly after narrowing their eyes.

This conflict with the 'Black-Corner Region' was the largest scale one in so many years with the most number of strong people participating. The energy ripples that basically blotted out the sun caused the hearts of those students watching below to feel a boiling fiery heat in their hearts. Was the reason why one lived and spent great effort training not because they wanted to stand at the peak of power and become the strong people others look up to?

While everyone placed their focus on the chaotic great battle in the sky, no one realized that the layer of black-colored energy film in the broken 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' below had unknowingly and quietly become thinner once again. If one were to observe carefully, one would even be able to see a pair of enormous dark, cold triangular eyes under the energy film!

Those dark, cold serpent eyes slowly moved as it looked at the sky. Finally, they paused on Han Feng... and Xiao Yan. This was especially so when the 'Heavenly Flame' rose on the bodies of the two of them. The heat within that pair of snake eyes had also quietly soared greatly. An extremely human-like greed was also born within them...

It appeared that not only did Xiao Yan and Han Feng want to swallow the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. The latter... seemed to have the same thought

about them.

# Chapter 602: Extermination

The sound of rushing wind, that was brought about by the human figures flashing about, sounded repeatedly in the blue sky. The energy explosions were like that of firecrackers sounding again and again. Powerful energy ripples were something that one could still vaguely sense despite being over fifty meters away.

Most of the Inner Academy was currently destroyed by the remnant waves that had spread out from the fight. This caused some of the Inner Academy students to have little choice but to move to an even further place to avoid the remnant ripples.

While they withdrew, numerous gazes focused intently on the great chaotic battle in the sky. Most of the gazes carried a wild heat and excitement as they paused on a certain battleground. At this place, a young figure had erupted recklessly. His opponent, an expert Dou Huang who had quite the reputation within the 'Black-Corner Region,' had fallen into a disadvantage, and appeared extremely miserable.

"Looks like Xiao Yan is about to win." Liu Qing's gaze was shining as he watched those two vague human figures from the top of a building. The shock in his voice was not the least bit concealed.

A beautiful figure stood prettily behind Liu Qing. Looking at that pretty face, it was surprisingly Liu Qing's younger cousin sister, Liu Fei. At this moment, this beauty, who had borne a great grudge toward Xiao Yan, no longer showed the hateful look in her eyes as they watched the figure in the sky. Her delicate hand covered her red lips while her pretty eyes reflected a strange flicker. That lovely face of hers was covered with a complicated expression. She had never expected that the person whom she had once looked down upon would be currently displaying a frightening strength that even Liu Qing was shocked at. Such strength had already exceeded the boundary of a student. Even some of the Elders within the Inner Academy could not reach such heights.

If it was said that Liu Fei felt an additional fear toward Xiao Yan after

the latter's fight with Liu Qing ended up in a draw where both were seriously injured. The strength that Xiao Yan was currently displaying had completely caused this haughty and unreasonable girl to become a little kitten which did not have even the slightest courage to fight back in front of him.

This kind of strength had already reached the point where she no longer had the courage to fight or offend! This was because her current greatest support, Liu Qing, also had no ability to resist under this kind of strength.

Therefore, the instant that Xiao Yan suppressed the Dou Huang class Fan Lao until the latter ended up in a disadvantage, the grudge that was in Liu Fei's heart automatically disappeared completely. Although she was rude and unreasonable, she was no fool. She knew just who she could offend and who she could not...

"Hua!"

A noise suddenly sounded from around her just as this thought lingered in her heart. She hurriedly raised her head and her pretty eyes were thrown toward the battleground where all the students of the Inner Academy were focusing on. Even though they were far apart, she was still able to sense an extremely powerful wind suddenly surfacing.

"Octane Blast!"

Xiao Yan's eyes suddenly became stern as he once again came close to Fan Lao's body in the sky. The hand which was about to slam onto the latter's shoulders suddenly tightened. His elbow protruded forward in a strange manner and his body charged forward. A wave of powerful wind agglomerated instantly at his elbow. Finally, it carried the deep exploding sound of air along with a cold cry as it violently smashed on the chest of the pale-faced Fan Lao.

"Bang!"

The deep muffled sound from the clashing of physical bodies sounded in the sky. Everyone could vaguely see the layer of blood film that had been lingering on Fan Lao's body broken apart completely as Xiao Yan's elbow landed firmly on the former's chest!

The wild and violent attack from Xiao Yan earlier had caused signs of superficial Dou Qi to appear within Fan Lao's body. The blood film which was the only one used to protect his life was shattered by the former. Hence, the powerful force that came toward him completely erupted on his chest in an unbridled fashion.

“Grug!”

With the blood film being shattered, Fan Lao, who had lost his greatest defense, finally began to show signs of defeat. The force spurted out wildly and a sleek redness immediately surged on Fan Lao's pale face. A mouthful of fresh blood was involuntarily spat out. His body plummeted down from the sky like a cannonball. Finally, it landed heavily into some debris, causing rock fragments to shoot and spread out in all directions.

Fan Lao's defeat caused the entire place to be silent. The defeat of an expert Dou Huang was quite a great loss for the side from the 'Black-Corner Region'. Moreover, the moment that Fan Lao was defeated, there was no longer anyone who was able to keep Xiao Yan in check. If Xiao Yan was allowed to participate in the great chaotic battle, the stalemate would definitely be immediately broken. Finally, the 'Black-Corner Region' which had originally occupied the upper hand might well have the situation turned around by the Jia Nan Academy!

This point was something that not only the experts who were fighting understood, but the countless number of students from the Inner Academy below were also clearly aware about it. Hence, the instant that Fan Lao spat out blood and fell to the ground, wild, joyful, loud cheers combined with each other before rushing to the clouds. This cheer did not disappear for a long time!

The pair of green fire wings flapped slowly in the sky. Xiao Yan's gaze was focused intently at the spot where Fan Lao had landed. He only let out a relieved sigh after sensing the weak aura. He was able to temporarily contend with an expert Dou Huang by borrowing Yao Lao's strength. Although it would definitely not have consumed so much time to defeat Fan Lao if he had displayed Yao Lao's strength recklessly; Xiao Yan clearly understood that there was a similar fear of Yao Lao's identity being

exposed. After all, there were so many experts in this place. If he were careless and allowed someone to see something, it would not be good news for Xiao Yan, whose current strength was insufficient to protect Yao Lao.

However, even though Xiao Yan was unable to unleash the complete extent of Yao Lao's strength, it was not too difficult for him to rely on the strength of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' and the restraint it imposed on Fan Lao to defeat the latter.

"I cannot leave this old dog's life. Otherwise, there will be no end of trouble in the future." A viciousness suddenly flashed across Xiao Yan's eyes. He clearly understood just how troublesome it would be to form a blood feud with an elite Dou Huang. Hence, he would naturally not give up this chance to completely crush his weakened enemy.

This thought had just flashed in his heart when Xiao Yan's body moved swiftly. One could see his wings flapping before his body transformed into a cluster of green flame. Immediately, it became like a meteorite falling to the ground as it smashed into the spot where Fan Lao had landed earlier in front of paa countless number of stunned gazes.

"Old dog, go and die!"

A cry that was filled with stern killing intent resounded across the sky. The green flame flashed and reached its destination in a lightning-like manner. It smashed into the debris with a 'bang'. A forceful ripple immediately spread out and turned some of the surrounding rock fragments into powder. Numerous crack lines that were as thick as his arm began spreading out like a spiderweb.

"Ah!"

A sharp cry quickly sounded as the green flame came smashing down. A bloody glow immediately shot out from the spot where the green flame spread. The bloody glow was dark and was completely different from the powerful majestic previous self.

The speed of the blood glow was extremely frightening. With a flash, it appeared in the sky a couple of hundred meters from the ground. Only

then did the figure within it slowly appear. It was surprisingly Fan Lao whose body was covered in blood. However, the latter's appearance was extremely miserable at this instance. Not only was his body covered in fresh blood but his entire body was much more frail. That manner was as though he was a dried corpse whose blood had been completely drained by someone...

"What great speed..." The green flame flashed on the ground and Xiao Yan once again rushed into the air. His gaze was dark and cold as he watched the distant pale-faced Fan Lao who appeared to be on his last gasp of air. From the looks of the other party's appearance, Xiao Yan clearly understood that this old fellow had instantly vaporized the liquid blood within his body and unleashed a speed that even Xiao Yan could not hope to match. It was only this reason that he avoided inevitable death.

"Xiao Yan! You are actually thinking of exterminating me when I am down?" Fan Lao maintained a great distance from Xiao Yan as he cried out in a stern hoarse voice.

"Sect Leader Fan, isn't it too laughable for you, a person from the 'Black-Corner Region,' to say these words? Isn't such a thing only too common to people like you?" Xiao Yan laughed coldly as he ridiculed. His gaze firmly locked onto Fan Lao as the Dou Qi in his body churned and became ready to once again unleash a killing move.

Fan Lao's expression was green and white. A moment later, he suddenly laughed and said, "Actually, this matter is but a misunderstanding..."

"Ke ke, I also share the same thought..." Xiao Yan fondled his chin as he thought deeply for an instant after hearing Fan Lao's words. He actually nodded his head. However, just as Fan Lao was momentarily stunned by his reaction, a faint rolling thunder suddenly sounded. Xiao Yan's figure abruptly disappeared!

"Chi!"

Fan Lao's eyes shrank the moment the sound of thunder appeared. He clenched his teeth violently and his fist smashed on his chest. A mouthful of blood was spat out violently and his body once again turned into a

blood glow that disappeared from his original spot the instant it did so.

Xiao Yan's body surfaced in a strange manner the instant that Fan Lao's disappeared. A fist was violently punched out and struck the afterimage that remained, shattering it until nothing was left.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly. He raised his head and his gaze swept across the place. Finally, it stopped in the sky a couple of hundred meters away. Fan Lao, whose face was nearly transparent, once again flashed and appeared at that spot.

"Another afterimage huh... I want to see just how much fresh blood you can use." The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth was lifted into a dense, cold arc. He was just about to go after Fan Lao with the intention of finishing him off when the clear sound of an energy barrier shattering suddenly reverberated through the sky.

That sound may not have been very loud, but it possessed a kind of magical strength, causing all the battlegrounds in the sky to temporarily pause. Numerous gazes suddenly shifted down. Finally, they paused at the top of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower', whose roof had already been broken. Everyone's face immediately changed drastically!

"This is bad... that bastard is actually going to break the seal again..." Su Qian's expression immediately change the moment the voice sounded. His gaze suddenly turned toward the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower', and his voice contained a shock that could not be hidden.

"Is this the 'Heavenly Flame' of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'? It is really unexpected that it has already gathered and form an intelligence..." Han Feng's gaze also followed the voice and was thrown to the top of the tower. His eyes were filled with a fiery heat as his body was so excited that it began to tremble at this moment.

That black-colored energy film at the top of the tower had already broken apart at an unknown time. A pair of enormous snake eyes that contained a flame slowly surfaced from within the darkness. Finally, it swept over the body of every single person in the sky, causing them to feel a chill all over their bodies.

# Chapter 603: Ineffective Seal

The bodies of everyone in the sky instantly stiffened as they sensed the surfacing of the enormous dark, cold snake eyes. The 'Heavenly Flame' possessed the greatest destructive strength in this world – strength that burned the sky and boiled the sea. Faced with such a strength, it was likely that there was no one, with the exception of those legendary elites who had trained their Dou Qi until it was on par with nature, who would not feel a trembling fear under it.

Su Qian's expression had also become extremely serious the instant the energy film seal shattered. He was too lazy to bother about the Gold Silver Brothers who were facing each other in front of him. Compared to these experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' who had engaged in a large scale invasion, Su Qian was more fearful of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' that was in the tower. A 'Heavenly Flame' was itself already frightening. A 'Heavenly Flame' that had gathered and formed an intelligence was sufficient to cause others to quiver in fear at the mere mention of it. These fellows from the 'Black-Corner Region' may be greedy, unscrupulous and vicious fellows, but even if they were given a hundred times their courage, they would not dare to extend their hands toward the students of the Inner Academy. These students originated from all over the continent. Most of them had some factions behind them. Perhaps these factions may not be very strong if they were separated. However, if they were to gather together, even the 'Black-Corner Region' would have difficulty enduring such a fury. Moreover... the Jia Nan Academy's foundation was naturally not weak after being able to stand on the continent for so many years. However, some things would seldom be taken out unless it came to a true situation of life and death.

One example was the Elders guarding the hall whom Xiao Yan had met when he and the others had entered the mysterious valley after having obtained the top five of the 'Qualifying Competition'. The strength of those two were definitely not weaker than Hu Gan. If they were to intervene, these fellows from the 'Black-Corner Region' would have long been totally defeated.

“All Elders from the Inner Academy, listen up. Form the formation!”

Su Qian’s gaze flickered. He suddenly let out a stern cry and actually completely ignored the Gold Silver Brothers as well as the numerous experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ who were looking at them with malice while crying out to all the Elders.

All the Elders were startled when they heard Su Qian’s cry. Their gaze swept across the experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ who were around them. They hesitated a little before moving their bodies swiftly to the sky above the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ and forming the great sealing formation from earlier.

Those experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ swiftly gathered together after seeing the action of the Elders of the Inner Academy. Their gazes had great interest as they looked at the broken top of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’.

“Tsk tsk, Mister Han, is now the best chance for us to attack and defeat them now that the Elders of the Inner Academy are too busy dealing with their own things?” An old man who looked like a dark eagle eyed the Elders who were going all out in unleashing their Dou Qi with the intent of sealing the ‘Heavenly Flame’ once again, and gave Han Feng a strange laugh.

“Ke ke, Old Ban need not be so anxious. After the great battle earlier, the Elders of the Inner Academy have already been quite badly exhausted. On the other hand, the ‘Heavenly Flame’ has been recharging its strength. It won’t be so easy for them to seal it now. They might even suffer great losses under the attack by the ‘Heavenly Flame’.” Han Feng shook his head and laughed, “We can wait for them to fight until they are both severely injured before taking action to snatch the ‘Heavenly Flame’.”

Although Han Feng spoke in this manner, he had another thought within his heart. Although he had gained the advantage after having gathered a large group of helpers, he was no fool. He clearly knew that the foundation of the Jia Nan Academy was quite firm. If they were to truly anger them, it was likely that every single one of them would suffer. His

aim was only the 'Heavenly Flame', and he did not want to form a blood feud with the Jia Nan Academy because of it.

Snatching the 'Heavenly Flame' may cause the relationship between both parties to become extremely bad, but there was still a gap between that and a blood feud. Those experts of the Jia Nan Academy in seclusion may be able to accept the 'Heavenly Flame' being snatched, but they would not accept a situation where over half the Elders were injured or dead.

That old man who was called old Ban frowned a little upon hearing this but could only nod his head. He originally had an extremely deep grudge with the Jia Nan Academy. Therefore, his faction frequently came into conflict with the academy's Law Enforcement Unit, and would suffer great injuries and deaths each time around. Naturally, they did not want to give up this rare opportunity to greatly hurt the academy.

Waves of a faint energy barrier once again surfaced following the surging Dou Qi from the Elders in the sky. However, the energy barrier this time around was undoubtedly much weaker and thinner than before. Clearly, the Elders had suffered quite a great burden from the great battle earlier.

During the time that Han Feng was conversing, a bloody figure suddenly rushed over before carefully squeezing into the crowd. His gaze was dark and vicious while containing a thread of fear as he stared at the black-robed, young man who was a short distance away.

The blood figure that rushed in was naturally Fan Lao. However, his figure was now completely different from his previous one. His appearance was as though he was on his last breath and could die at any time.

The experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' around him may gloat a little upon seeing Fan Lao's miserable manner, however, they felt a greater amount of shock and seriousness. The former was actually turned into such a miserable state by the skinny, young man despite his strength. Just how powerful was that fellow?

“Sect Leader Fan, are you alright?” Han Feng was also shocked for a moment by the appearance of Fan Lao. A moment later, he knit his brows and took out a medicinal pill from his storage ring before shoving it to Fan Lao.

Fan Lao basically snatched the medicinal pill before stuffing into his mouth. He let out a deep breath as a sleek redness surfaced on his pale-white face. His gaze was dark and vicious as he stared at the black-robed, young man who was flapping his pair of green flame wings. His voice was a little dry and hoarse, “That fellow’s ‘Heavenly Flame’ restrained me. Otherwise, he would have suffered.”

Everyone naturally did not know whether to agree or disagree to such excuses. All of them had sensed something from the fight between Fan Lao and Xiao Yan. The Dou Technique that the latter used was not any weaker than Fan Lao. It was likely that even without the issue of one Dou Qi subduing the other, Fan Lao’s defeat was still only a matter of time.

Han Feng’s gaze flickered. He stared at Xiao Yan in the distance as a thought rolled in his heart, “This young man was able to defeat the four star Dou Huang Fan Lao. Even with the elimination of the restraint his affinity poses on the latter, his strength should be within that of a five star Dou Huang. If I were to meet him alone, it is possible to defeat him...”

Although Han Feng also clearly knew that Xiao Yan controlled quite a strong Dou Technique, he had usually gathered some good things from helping others refine medicinal pill as a tier 6 alchemist. Naturally, he did not lack any good things. A Di class Dou Technique may be extremely rare to others but it would not cause him to be surprised.

“I need to find time and investigate this young man’s background. After which, I will look for an opportunity to capture him...”

The green fire wings were slowly flapping behind Xiao Yan as he watched Fan Lao who had rushed into the circle consisting of the experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’. He involuntarily knit his brows. This crafty old fellow. Now that there were so many strong people guarding him, it would not be easy to kill him. Fortunately, he was able to badly hurt

him in today's battle despite not being able to kill him. He may have even left behind an injury that was difficult to completely recover from. At that time, this old fellow would have difficulty entering an even higher level regardless of what kind of tactic he used.

Xiao Yan suddenly became alert as this thought flashed across his heart. He suddenly turned his gaze toward Han Feng who was beside Fan Lao. Four eyes looked at each other. Both parties contained a dense, cold killing intent that only they understood in their hearts.

Xiao Yan clenched his five fingers slowly. However, Yao Lao's soft voice suddenly sounded in his heart at this very moment, "Don't be reckless. That fellow has quite a number of strong people around him. You will not be able to deal with them even if you unleash the strength that I can loan you to the maximum. I will repeat myself again. Unless you have reached the Dou Wang class, you should reduce a head on collision with them. You should know just how powerful a person who has practiced 'Flame Mantra' and swallowed a 'Heavenly Flame' is. Although he may have practiced an incomplete Qi Method, one should still not underestimate him."

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth viciously. He hesitated for a moment before slowly releasing his tightly gripped fist. He could not be rash at this moment... however, if he wanted to advance to a Dou Wang... ah, he would at least require two years even with his current pace. This gap was really too wide. That class which was called the barrier between the ordinary and the strong in the continent was not so easy to break through.

Xiao Yan sighed softly. He turned his head and threw his gaze to the top of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. His heart quietly surged. This thing was the crucial factor in deciding if he could swiftly advance to the Dou Wang class. Hence, he must obtain it regardless of what happens.

The people in the sky each contained their own thoughts. The sealing formation that was controlled by Su Qian once again emitted an intense glow. However, just as the glow had reached its peak level, the top of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' which had been without movement finally emitted a sharp hissing sound. Immediately, a substance-like sonic wave

formed a ripple shape as it hurriedly spread out, destroying the originally miserable surroundings until they were a complete mess.

That large body also surged out in front of numerous shocked gazes under a thunder-like explosion while the sonic wave sounded. The invisible flame that shot in all directions was like a storm as it violently smashed into the energy barrier around it. That powerful strike caused the energy barrier to swiftly form waves of ripples that faintly showed signs of collapsing.

The instant the collision occurred, the expressions of quite a number of Elders became slightly paler. Their aura also gradually became much weaker.

“This... this is the ‘Heavenly Flame’ of the Inner Academy? Heavens, it has actually evolved until it is close to forming a corporeal form!”

Those experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region,’ who saw the huge invisible snake occupying an enormous part of the sky for the first time, immediately let out a shocked cry. Their faces were stunned.

Han Feng was also shocked by the immensity of the body of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. Soon after, however, his face contained a joy that was difficult to hide. If he was able to successfully refine and swallow it, it was likely that he would be able to break the barrier between a Dou Huang and a Dou Zong.

“Ji!”

A strange hissing sound once again resounded through the sky. The invisible fire python appeared to be aware that the seal was about to break. It immediately swung its tail and its huge body was like lightning as it carried a momentum that caused even space to vibrate as it violently struck a part of the energy barrier!

“Crack...”

Following this powerful collision, the energy barrier that was rippling swiftly finally emitted a clear sound that indicated it could not handle the great burden. A small crack line suddenly appeared under the shocked

gazes of the Elders before beginning to completely cover the energy barrier much like a spiderweb.

Su Qian's expression was ugly as he watched the energy barrier which was covered with crack lines and about to break. He knew that the seal had already failed...

“Bang!”

The enormous head of the python collided violently into the energy barrier which was about to break. That enormous strength finally shattered it. In an instant, the energy fragments danced all over the sky. The cylinder-like energy barrier was completely shattered at this moment...

A strange crazy hiss that contained a wild joy erupted from the ferocious, large mouth of the huge invisible python like a thunderstrike the moment the energy barrier was broken!

The invisible fire python did not flee immediately after having escaped its restraints. Instead, it suddenly raised its head. Its dark, cold snake eyes stared firmly at Xiao Yan and Han Feng. Its eyes contained an extremely human-like greed and desire.

# Chapter 604: The Fallen Heart Flame, a Cheating Training Machine!

The action of the invisible flame python caused everyone in the sky to be startled. Their gazes followed it and turned to Xiao Yan and Han Feng. They only came to a sudden understanding when their gazes drifted across the green and blue-colored flames which were writhing over the bodies of these two. However, on top of suddenly coming to an understanding, they also felt it was funny and surprising. It was really unexpected that this 'Heavenly Flame' actually had plans for those who had come to capture it. It seemed that it wanted to change the position between the hunter and the hunted.

With the many years that Han Feng had spent refining his alchemist skills, he was naturally able to recall all the various shapes and special characteristics of the 'Heavenly Flames' on the 'Heavenly Flame Ranking' in reverse order. Hence, the former had instantly recognized what kind of flame it was, the moment the invisible fire python appeared.

"It is really unexpected that it is actually the 'Fallen Heart Flame'..." Shock surfaced on his face. The wild joy in Han Feng's heart became even denser. With his knowledge of the 'Heavenly Flame', he naturally understood the various benefits of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. This kind of flame might appear slightly weaker than the other flames in terms of offensive strength. However, its special ability of increasing the pace of one's training was something that caused a countless number of people to dream of.

The Fallen Heart Flame, ranked fourteenth. It was born from the heart, and was able to temper one's Qi and refine one's bones.

In the alchemist world, this so-called 'Fallen Heart Flame' also had another nickname that captures one's attention: Training Cheat Machine!

Once one successfully refined the 'Fallen Heart Flame', one's body would be able to unceasingly form a kind of 'Heart Flame'. This 'Heart Flame' would not require any form of control as it calcined the Dou Qi within

one's body every second of the day. This repeated refinement was as though one's body was in training mode all the time. The effect of this training condition was even better than usual. Such training was naturally far greater than an ordinary training. Therefore, it was not strange for it to be called a cheat machine.

From a certain point of view, if the 'Fallen Heart Flame' and another flame that was ranked between five and ten were placed in front of an alchemist for him to choose, it was likely that most of them would choose the former. For no other reason other than its ability to repeatedly provide Dou Qi to their bodies with a refining effect throughout the day and night was too attractive an offer.

The Inner Academy had sealed the 'Fallen Heart Flame' and relied on the 'Heart Flame' which let it create the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower', a building that could increase one's training pace. During this period of time, it had groomed quite a number of young experts. If one person were to seize it all for himself, that training speed... just how fast would it be?

Therefore, even an expert like Han Feng would feel such wild joy when he discovered that the 'Heavenly Flame' that was sealed within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' was actually the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. Although the effect of the increased training speed by the 'Fallen Heart Flame' at his level was no longer as clear as those at Xiao Yan's level, such an unceasing refinement brought about a benefit to the owner that was difficult to estimate no matter how one put it.

Of course, regardless of how much one craved the special effect of the 'Fallen Heart Flame', all of it was only on the precondition that one could refine it. However, it was easier said than done when trying to subdue a 'Heavenly Flame.' Flames that possessed the greatest destructive strength in the world. Moreover, this 'Heavenly Flame'... possessed its own intelligence...

Xiao Yan was similarly stunned for a moment at the greedy gaze of that invisible fire python. A caution rose within his heart on top of feeling that it was funny. The strength of this 'Fallen Heart Flame' was extremely powerful. Even the seal which Su Qian had guided so many Elders in

creating was unable to imprison it. If he were accidentally struck by it, it was likely that his ending would be a little miserable. Xiao Yan had come to the Jia Nan Academy to obtain the 'Fallen Heart Flame' and not to be obtained by it...

"However, the greed in the eyes of this 'Heavenly Flame'... don't tell me that it is actually thinking of swallowing me?" Xiao Yan muttered to himself.

"The 'Heavenly Flames' in this world may have different characteristics but they also have something in common. All of them possess an extremely great energy. If a 'Heavenly Flame' that was not controlled by anyone were to meet another at the same spot, they would instinctively swallow the other to achieve its aim of strengthening itself. Now that the 'Fallen Heart Flame' has already gained an intelligence, it naturally knows that its strength would greatly soar if it were to swallow the 'Heavenly Flames' within your bodies." Yao Lao's voice quietly sounded within Xiao Yan's heart as he solved Xiao Yan's doubt.

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth parted. His face had a strange expression. It was unexpected that he had ended up being locked on by the 'Heavenly Flame' after having come to capture it. The positions of the two had really changed quickly.

"What should we do now?" Xiao Yan rubbed his head and asked.

"Let's keep some distance from it first. The strength of this thing is now extremely great. Even if you were to join hands with me, it is likely that you won't be able to hold it off." Yao Lao mused awhile before speaking.

Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment after hearing his response, but could only end up nodding his head in the end. The green fire wings on his back were flapped slightly as his body rose into the sky.

The invisible fire python also sensed something just as Xiao Yan body was about to move. It abruptly raised its enormous head and violently swung its huge tail. Its large body shot into the sky. However, from the looks of the route that it was hurrying through, its target was not Xiao Yan, but the one who many were clustering around... Han Feng.

The expressions on the faces of those strong people from the 'Black-Corner Region' around Han Feng changed as they saw the invisible flame that had suddenly charged over. The pressuring feeling brought about by the huge body of the former caused even them to feel as though a great enemy had descended. This was especially the case when the hot fire wave had come pouncing over from the front. Some of the experts could endure it no longer as they hurriedly withdrew.

"Everyone, don't panic. We have a large number of people here and that beast will not dare to engage in a head on collision with us!" Han Feng hurriedly shouted after appearing to have sensed the low morale of his side. He was also clearly aware of just what kind of frightening strength the invisible fire python possessed. He really did not dare to collide head on with it by relying only on his strength.

"Mister Han, I am already seriously wounded and it is likely that I can't be of much help. I think I should leave first." Fan Lao's expression was pale as he watched the invisible fire python, that let off a curling flame in all directions, sweep over. He swallowed a mouthful of saliva with much difficulty before hurriedly cupping his hands toward Han Feng in front of him. After which, he rushed back under Han Feng's changed expression.

"This bastard! You can forget about begging me to refine medicinal pills for you in the future!" Han Feng immediately cursed furiously in his heart as his gaze saw Fan Lao who was already far away. Although the former was indeed unable to help much, it would be quite a blow for the hesitating people around for him to flee at such a moment.

Han Feng's gaze glanced all around him as he thought in this manner within his heart. Other than a few experts who were quite strong, most of the expressions of everyone had become hesitant because of the hot wave that had come sweeping over.

"Hiss!"

A sharp hissing sound was suddenly emitted by the increasingly closer invisible fire python as everyone felt an uncertainty in their heart. Under this hissing sound, an invisible flame that caused space to instantly

become distorted quietly spread over.

Even though everyone's bodies were protected by Dou Qi, the strike by the flame still caused them to feel a searing pain. It was not so easy to isolate the temperature of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'.

The dark-blue flame was like a sea wave that repeatedly churned over the surface of Han Feng's body. With the help of the 'Sea Heart Flame', the temperature of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' did not cause much damage to him. However, the remaining people around could only use all their strength to maneuver the Dou Qi within their bodies and hold out against the flame.

"Han Feng, it is not possible to go on in this manner. The strength that the beast creates appears to be never ending. If we were to continue to hold on in this manner, it is likely that these people on our side would be the first to be unable to hold out." An old man who was in gold robes eyed the experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' who all had perspiration covering their faces before frowning and speaking to Han Feng beside him.

Han Feng's expression changed as he stared intently at the invisible fire python that had charged over. The flame that came sweeping over contained an incomparable force that caused even him to feel panic in his heart.

"Everyone, lend me a hand. If I can subdue this 'Heavenly Flame' today, I will pay everyone double the medicinal pill conditions that everyone had brought up before arriving!" The blue-colored flame on his body surged abruptly while Han Feng turned his head to the experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' and cried.

The eyes on the perspiration-filled faces of the experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' flickered slightly upon hearing Han Feng's cry. They hesitated a little before violently nodding their heads at such a lucrative reward. Most of the people from the 'Black-Corner Region' were those who would do anything for profits.

"Listen to my orders and attack it together. You only need to exhaust its

strength. Leave everything after that to me!”

Two blue-colored enormous fire spears were swiftly agglomerated between Han Feng’s palms. His gaze stared intently at the approaching invisible fire python. When the latter was around ten plus meters from him, he widened his eyes and cried out in a stern voice, “Attack!”

The two ten foot long fire spears in his hands carried a ‘bang,’ that was similar to being slammed by a wave, as they violently shot toward the invisible fire python following his cry.

Behind the enormous blue-colored fire spears were dozens of other extremely powerful energy pillars of varying color. These attacks were something that the experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ had unleashed with all their strength. They had summoned all their strength under the lucrative reward that Han Feng was offering.

“Elder Su, what should we do now?” Hu Gan flashed and appeared beside Su Qian. He watched the experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ who were already fighting with the invisible fire python before knitting his brows and asking.

“We will wait and see.” Su Qian narrowed his eyes and voiced his thoughts, “The target of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ appears to be Han Feng. Since that is the case, let’s allow them to fight with each other first. Instruct all the Elders to seize the time to recover their Dou Qi. The great battle has yet to end. We must definitely not allow the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ to land in Han Feng’s hands.”

Hu Gan nodded slightly before flashing his body and withdrawing.

Xiao Yan was flapping his green fire wings on the other side of the sky. He crossed his hands in front of him and watched Han Feng and the others who were the first to engage in an all out fight with the invisible flame. A cold smile surfaced on the corner of his mouth.

“Fight, fight. It is best if all of you fight until you are half alive... fisherman... I simply love it the most...”

TL: The term fisherman symbolises someone who benefits from the fight

between others

“Bang!”

Under the gazes of everyone, the attacks of the experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ violently collided with the invisible fire python amid a loud explosion. Immediately, a furious and strange hissing sound roared throughout the sky!

# Chapter 605: Fighting With Fire!

A colorful energy pillar appeared like a rainbow that drew across the sky. It carried traces of slightly shaken space as it violently collided with the large body of the invisible fire python. The energy explosion was like brilliant fireworks that were projected from the fire python's body.

The frightening attack that gathered the full offensive strength of all the experts in the 'Black-Corner Region' was something that even Su Qian would not dare receive. Therefore, despite the great strength of the invisible python, its enormous body also swiftly descended under this violent collision. A furious hissing sound pierced everyone's ears as it resounded in the sky.

A joyful expression was contained on the faces of all the experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' as they watched the invisible fire python being forced back. However, that joy had yet to spread when an even more terrifying and hotter energy wave suddenly surged from below.

They lowered their heads in shock, only to see the enormous body of that invisible fire python appearing in their eyes in a lightning-like manner. Its large, triangular eyes contained a hot temperature that appeared to have the intention of melting all those people who had blocked it.

"Stop it!"

Han Feng's expression changed a little as he let out a stern cry when he saw the invisible fire python pouncing over once again.

The cry had just sounded when the experts from around him once again hurriedly summoned the Dou Qi from their bodies. However, that invisible fire python which was shooting over opened its savage mouth before they could unleash their attacks. An invisible fire pillar, which could distort space, erupted from it!

The invisible fire pillar drew past the empty sky, evaporating all the air wherever it passed. A scar that was visible to the naked eye remained in the sky, causing everyone to feel quietly shocked.

“Move aside!”

Han Feng hurriedly cried out as he sensed the terrifying temperature contained within the fire pillar.

The speed of the fire pillar was as fast as lightning. Just after Han Feng’s cry sounded, it carried an incomparable momentum as it viciously shot into the crowd that was formed from the experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’.

Han Feng and some of the other experts with strong senses managed to narrowly dodge the fire pillar the moment that it shot over in an explosive manner. Despite this being the case, the fire pillar that narrowly missed them still caused an intense searing pain to be felt on their skin.

“Ah!”

Only those experts who had some ability were able to escape the fire pillar. On the other hand, some of the unlucky ones were coincidentally struck by it. The invisible flame diffused their bodies, and even those who had Dou Qi protecting their bodies still felt a stabbing pain that was drilling through their hearts. The human figures in the sky flashed, and over ten burning individuals scurried randomly in all directions, doing their best to struggle and escape from the invisible flame that possessed their bodies.

“Help them!”

Han Feng hurriedly cried out when he saw the experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ whom the flame had spread to. Currently, these people were the crucial element in determining whether he could obtain the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. Naturally, he could not easily allow anything to happen to them.

Han Feng was the first to move to rescue the others after his voice sounded. However, a hot wave that shot from under him caused him to hurriedly halt his actions. When he lowered his head to take a look, he actually saw that a fire pillar that was not any weaker than the attack earlier was shot toward him.

“Dammit!”

Han Feng softly cursed. He clearly understood just what kind of destructive strength this fire pillar contained, and did not dare to test it even a little. He waved his hand immediately and a powerful deep-blue flame immediately shot explosively out of his body. Finally, it became like a blue-colored sky curtain that formed above his head.

“Hah!”

The seals in Han Feng’s hands were swiftly formed and his palms pressed down hard toward the fire pillar that shot explosively from under him. The blue-colored flaming sky curtain immediately curled down from all directions. It was like the churning sea. Waves of the ocean heavily piled onto each other before finally colliding violently with the invisible flame.

“Bang!”

The two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flame’ collided with a ‘bang’, and a thunder-like explosion suddenly exploded beside the ears of everyone present. The instant the flames collided, even those students from the Inner Academy could clearly sense the temperature over the entire sky suddenly soar. Some of the dried tree leaves in certain areas even began to suddenly spontaneously combust...

The energy ripple that was formed from the collision of the ‘Heavenly Flames’ in the sky caused Han Feng to swiftly withdraw over a dozen steps. Only then did he stabilize his body. His gaze glanced down only to see that the invisible fire python had curled up into a snake formation in the sky. It lifted its enormous head high up and stared firmly at Han Feng. Clearly, the former was prepared to engage in a true fight with him.

“This bastard. That guy also possesses a ‘Heavenly Flame’. Why is it that it must come and look for me first?” Han Feng’s face was green. His gaze glanced at Xiao Yan in the distant sky, who had folded his arms and adopted a wait and see attitude, observing the battle before cursing angrily in his heart.

“Han Feng, this ‘Heavenly Flame’ is really too strong. It is likely that we

won't be able to be of much help. You don't need to fear its frightening temperature because you already possess a 'Heavenly Flame', therefore, you should use some means to weaken it a little first!" A loud cry suddenly sounded. Han Feng's heart immediately sank upon hearing this. He turned his gaze, only to see that the Gold Silver Brothers had already brought the large group of experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' and moved far away from this place. Clearly, the powerful attack that the invisible fire python had displayed earlier had already caused a fear to form in the hearts of these people.

"A group of cowardly people who are afraid to die!" Han Feng cursed out in his heart. However, he did not dare to make any drastic move. He understood that the invisible fire python had currently locked onto him. As long as he was to retreat by even a little, the latter would immediately pounce over.

"Looks like I can only use some means to quietly suppressed the flame of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' by a little. Otherwise, it was likely that those fellows will no longer intervene, given their cautious characters..." This thought swiftly circulated in his heart. A moment later, he could only clench his teeth and stare at the invisible fire python below with a dark, cold gaze. His arms shook and two icy-blue jade bottles immediately appeared in his hand.

Everyone could immediately see a wave of dense blue-colored chilly air seeping out following the appearance of these two jade bottles. Some of those sharp eyed people could even see that the slight moisture that was contained in the air was solidified into ice fragments wherever the cold air passed.

Han Feng held the jade bottle tightly and let out a cold laugh. He immediately threw it violently toward the invisible fire python!

Han Feng's hand suddenly tightened when the blue-colored jade bottle was still around ten meters from the invisible fire python. "Explode!"

"Bang!"

The icy-blue jade bottle suddenly burst apart. Immediately, blue-colored

cold air erupted from it in all directions. Within the short blink of an eye, it covered the large patch of sky. That invisible fire python was also within the covered region.

The invisible fire python felt an uneasiness as that icy-blue cold air spread. After being influenced by the cold air, the invisible flame that was writhing over its body became somewhat thinner.

“This cold fog... can actually suppress the ‘Heavenly Flame’?” Xiao Yan involuntarily cried out in shock within his heart when he saw the invisible fire python becoming a little sluggish within the cold fog.

“This icy-blue fog should be... ‘Sky Cold Air’. The rarity of this thing is not any less than a ‘Heavenly Flame’. It only exists deep underground in extremely cold places. An ordinary flame would definitely be automatically extinguished when it is within a certain distance from it. Only a ‘Heavenly Flame’ can withstand it. Despite this being the case, the strength of the ‘Heavenly Flame’ would be greatly reduced under the influence of the ‘Sky Cold Air’.” Yao Lao’s somewhat surprised voice sounded within Xiao Yan’s heart, “It is really unexpected that he even managed to obtain the ‘Sky Cold Air’. Looks like he has put in quite a lot of effort in order to search for a ‘Heavenly Flame’.”

“Then... will he succeed?” Xiao Yan knit his brows and asked with hesitation

“Relax, the ‘Sky Cold Air’ may be able to restrain the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ a little, but a ‘Heavenly Flame’ is ultimately something that possesses the most terrifying destructive strength in nature. It is extremely difficult to subdue it even after it is restrained.” Yao Lao comforted.

Xiao Yan only felt a calmness in his heart after hearing this. His gaze firmly stared at the vague cold fog. The green-colored flame slowly rose within his eyes, and that blurry feeling vanished immediately.

“Hmph, bastard. No matter how much intelligence you have, you are still unable to escape your fate of being captured!” Han Feng rejoiced in his heart as he saw the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ become somewhat sluggish within the cold fog. He let out a laugh as the dark-blue flame once again

erupted from his body. Finally, it agglomerated into a swiftly spiraling flame drill bit at the tip of his finger.

The flame drill bit spun wildly, emitting a humming sound that resounded through the sky.

For some unknown reason, that flame drill bit appeared to be totally unaffected by the cold fog despite it clearly being present within its boundary. Its hot temperature still caused waves of distortions to appear in the sky.

“Go!”

With a flick of his finger, the flame drill bit shot out abruptly. Its humming sound was like that of a crying child as shock waves formed over any area that it passed.

“Xiu!”

The flame drill bit penetrated the cold fog in a lightning-like manner before finally drilling into the invisible fire python’s large body.

“Chi!”

The flame drill bit was only blocked by the scales of the invisible fire python for a moment before penetrating into its body. Immediately, a sharp, furious, strange hiss roared out like that of thunder in clear sky.

The furious roar had just sounded when a frightening energy fluctuation, that caused the expressions of everyone present to immediately change, rippled and spread out. The area that had its temperature reduced by the ‘Sky Cold Air’ had its temperature raised abruptly!

As the temperature soared, the cold air that spread throughout the sky actually began to gradually become thinner. Clearly, even the latter did not have much of an effect when the ‘Heavenly Flame’ truly erupted..

The instant the increasingly thin ‘Sky Cold Air’ completely disappeared, the invisible flame that spread in all directions like a sky flame began to sweep out. The first to be struck by this was naturally the one who was closest to it, Han Feng!

A dark-blue flame was waved out from his sleeves to force back the invisible flame that had come pouncing over. Han Feng's gaze swept down, only to be stunned when he realized that the enormous body of the invisible fire python had actually completely vanished...

Han Feng knit his brows tightly together. His gaze hurriedly swept in all directions. However, he could only see the invisible flame that was sweeping over from all directions no matter where he looked. There was not the slightest sign of the fire python's body.

"Where has that beast run off to?" Han Feng muttered somewhat uneasily in his heart. He was just about to flash out from this region surrounded by the invisible flame when the flame that had already completely wrapped around him suddenly became distorted. An enormous body appeared behind Han Feng in an extremely strange manner. Its enormous tail was swung through the air. It carried a hot wind that could collapse mountains and split the land as it violently smashed into Han Feng's back under a countless number of stunned gazes.

"Grug!"

A mouthful of fresh blood was spat out from Han Feng's mouth after suffering such a serious blow. His body also became like a cannonball that was shot toward the ground.

Xiao Yan's face was stunned as he watched Han Feng who had suddenly spat out blood from becoming injured. The latter had been acting very proud earlier. It was really unexpected that in the blink of an eye, he actually wound up in such a state. That 'Fallen Heart Flame' was indeed terrifying...

Yao Lao's shocked cry suddenly sounded within Xiao Yan's heart while the latter was still stunned, causing all the pores in Xiao Yan's body to suddenly tense up!

"Xiao Yan, hurry up and leave! That beast has its eyes on you again!"

# Chapter 606: Revealing The True Form

The 'Fallen Heart Flame' went against everyone's expectations and did not continue to give chase after defeating Han Feng in the sky. Instead, it abruptly turned its enormous head and focused its snake eyes on the distant Xiao Yan.

The 'Green Lotus Core Flame' within Xiao Yan's body appeared to have become cautious the instant the 'Fallen Heart Flame' locked onto Xiao Yan. It suddenly automatically erupted from within Xiao Yan's body. In the blink of an eye, it firmly wrapped around Xiao Yan's entire body.

"Hiss!"

The invisible fire python raised its head to the sky and emitted a sharp hissing sound. It violently swung its enormous tail, and its enormous body carried a hot wind of great pressure as it hurriedly shot toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan's expression changed slightly as he watched the invisible fire python that did not hesitate in changing its target. The green fire wings on Xiao Yan's back flapped hurriedly as a silver glow surfaced from under his feet. Immediately, the faint rolling sound of thunder resonated in the sky as his body disappeared from his original spot in a ghost-like manner.

The enormous tail violently swung over the place where Xiao Yan was originally at. That frightening force caused even the air to emit a low exploding sound wherever it passed.

The invisible fire python turned its gaze after its futile strike. It swiftly discovered the black-colored human figure had flashed and appeared in the sky a hundred meters away. A dark coldness flashed across its enormous snake eyes. Torrents of invisible flames swiftly surged out from its body. Immediately, the enormous body of the invisible fire python once again disappeared within the flame...

Xiao Yan was startled when he saw the 'Fallen Heart Flame' disappear in such a strange manner. However, with Han Feng as a previous example, Xiao Yan could vaguely guess that the actual body of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' had turned into an ordinary flame and was hiding in this invisible

flame that was sweeping over from all directions at this instant.

“Be careful. Don’t be surrounded by those flame. As a pure ‘Heavenly Flame’, the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ can transform itself into any wisp within that flame. After which, it would agglomerate its actual body to perform an attack upon arriving at a spot that is around you.” Yao Lao serious warning sounded within Xiao Yan’s heart at the right time.

Xiao Yan felt a chill within his heart when he heard this. He nodded slightly as he watched the invisible flames that came sweeping over from all directions. The pair of green flame wings on his back flapped and he rushed out from between a gap just before the surrounding flame managed to truly form a fire web.

Xiao Yan’s body had just flashed out from the encirclement of the flame when he sensed an intense ripple from behind him. The corner of his eyes glanced over swiftly, only to realize that a part of the invisible flame had suddenly fluctuated. The enormous body of the fire python was vaguely visible within it.

“Ji!”

A sharp hissing sound suddenly roared through the sky as the invisible flame surfaced from a part of the flame. It eyed Xiao Yan who had escaped from being surrounded, and an extremely human-like fury immediately flashed across its snake eyes. It widened its enormous mouth and an invisible flame was immediately blasted toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan, who was alert, immediately turned his body when he sensed the hot temperature from behind him. He flipped his hands and two surging green flames erupted from his palm. Finally, they violently collided with the invisible flame under the gazes of a countless number of people.

“Bang!”

Another clear, loud sound erupted from the collision of the hot energy waves, causing the already dry area to become hotter. It gave people sunburns similar to those from a desert.

With the help of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', Xiao Yan blocked that flame attack which even an ordinary elite Dou Wang would be unable to dodge. However, he did not have time to quietly rejoice when he sensed the energy that had suddenly surged within the sky above his head.

Xiao Yan abruptly raised his head and immediately inhaled a breath of cool air. All he saw was that the clear sky had already been occupied by waves of invisible flame. Moreover, these flames were suspended around the body of the invisible fire python, much like soldiers who were ready to attack anytime.

"Ji!"

A sharp hissing suddenly sounded. Immediately, the flames all over the sky surged. Everyone could only use their shocked gazes to look at the invisible flames that came smashing down like meteorites. Those falling swishing sounds that filled the sky caused everyone to feel as though a great disaster had struck.

Even though Xiao Yan had the support of Yao Lao's strength, he still involuntarily felt fear within his heart at such a large scale frightening attack. Compared to the strength of the 'Heavenly Flame,' which agglomerated over an unknown number of years, the strength of a person did indeed appear to be extremely weak and insignificant.

"The energy of this beast appears to be endless. It will only be a matter of time for it to defeat me if I continue to receive such unending attacks... Dammit, I must think of a way to seriously injure it!" Xiao Yan clenched his fist tightly as the perspiration all over his face came rolling down like a stream. His gaze was firmly focused on the invisible fire python in the sky.

Although his thought was a good one, seriously injuring the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was easier said than done. The powerful 'Heavenly Flame' attack by Han Feng earlier not only failed to cause it much damage but had instead infuriated it, resulting in him suffering greatly.

"Calm your heart. All that you are seeing with your eyes now is merely the exterior body of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. The true essence of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' is hidden at a certain spot on this enormous body. As

long as you are able to find and damage the essence, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' will naturally be seriously injured. If you were to randomly attack like that fellow, you would merely be wasting your strength!" Yao Lao's low cry suddenly sounded in Xiao Yan's heart just as the latter was feeling helpless.

Xiao Yan body shook. He clenched his teeth and nodded before slowly exhaling a breath of air. His originally restless heart had become calm...

The flame ran about all over the sky, much like the destruction of the world. This terrifying scene caused quite a number of people to feel their legs become weak.

"Xiu! Xiu!"

The flame was like a meteorite that carried an unceasing sound of rushing, hot wind as it descended from the sky!

Si Qian and the others eyed the seemingly large scale destructive attack of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' in the sky. Their expressions immediately changed drastically. If this attack was to fall into the Inner Academy, it was likely that all the buildings within it would be instantly destroyed!

The flame seal shined on Xiao Yan's perspiration filled face. Numerous flames were swiftly gathering within his dark-black eyes. The black robe on Xiao Yan's body was pressed tightly to his skin under the frightening wind. This soft robe appeared to have all its moisture removed at this moment, becoming totally dry and appearing as though it would turn to dust at the slightest touch.

Xiao Yan focused his attention to its limit at this critical juncture. His eyes stared intently at those fire meteorites that came smashing over from all directions. Unbeknownst to him, all the noises in the outside world had become weak. Those clearly distinct colored eyes seemed to merely have some traces of the flame smashing down and the source of flame of the enormous being...

Find... find the essence!

Xiao Yan was muttering to himself within his heart. A wisp of green-

colored flame quietly spread over his dark-black eyes. At a certain moment, the world in his eyes changed drastically. The invisible fire python in the sky, that possessed an enormous body, possessed a snake scale half a foot under its enormous mouth that slowly revealed a seemingly invisible intense flame light which one could feel...

Found it!

The flame in Xiao Yan's eyes swiftly withdrew as he once again recovered his eyes clarity. A faint silver glow quietly became bright under his feet and the clear sound of rolling thunder slowly tumbled through the sky. An instant later, Xiao Yan abruptly leaped forward. Immediately... an afterimage remained where he was!

“Chi! chi!”

A countless number of gazes watched Xiao Yan who had suddenly moved. An instant later, all of them became stunned. All they could see was a black-robed figure would appear at the spot where the fire meteorite was after each silver flash. After which, an afterimage would be left behind...

Numerous afterimages swiftly appeared in the sky while observed by a countless number of stunned gazes. The actual body that created the afterimages was just like lightning that quickly penetrated through the flame meteorites that spread all over the sky and approached the enormous being in it!

The maximum speed he was displaying caused Xiao Yan to feel that the entire world had become extremely blurry. Only that cluster of invisible essence below the huge mouth of the fire python at the edge of his sight was bright and clear.

“Roar!”

A low, deep thunder-like roar was suddenly emitted from Xiao Yan's mouth as the distance between the two parties became closer. He clenched his fist and the green-colored flame appeared to boil like an active spirit. He immediately used an extremely great speed to agglomerate the green-colored flame into an enormous spear!

Xiao Yan's feet stepped into the air. A thunderous flash appeared while afterimages lingered. Numerous vague black shadows appeared to have teleported and appeared in front of the invisible fire python under the intent focus of a countless number of gazes!

The enormous body of the fire python caused one to involuntarily feel that they were small upon encountering it. A fear filled one's heart under the focus of the enormous snake eyes.

"Bastard, go and die!"

The hot temperature caused a searing pain to be felt all over Xiao Yan's body. However, his hand still held the long fire spear tightly. A sharp cry sounded. The huge fire spear turned into a lightning bolt that tore apart space as it carried a lightning-like momentum. It violently penetrated the snake scale underneath the enormous mouth of the fallen heart flame!

"Foolish brat. He is definitely seeking death!"

From the ground, Han Feng watched Xiao Yan who had actually dared to be this close to the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. He immediately let out a cold laugh. Having exchanged blows with the latter, he was extremely clear about what kind of frightening strength this thing possessed. Even his earlier attack from the agglomeration of 'Heavenly Flame' was not effective, much less Xiao Yan's attack.

There were quite a number of people who held similar thoughts as Han Feng. Even the expression of Su Qian had sank a little. Dou Qi surged within his body as he readied himself to conduct a rescue.

However, as everyone was laughing coldly or becoming anxious at this reckless action of Xiao Yan, the invisible fire python that was pierced by Xiao Yan abruptly lifted its huge head. A sharp sound that contained pain, that was difficult to hide, reverberated mournfully over the sky!

The sharp shrill noise had just sounded when the body of the invisible fire python quietly became illusionary under numerous shocked gazes...

"A perfect attack! Now, it is time for it to reveal its true form. Little fellow, prepare to snatch the 'Heavenly Flame'!"

Yao Lao's laughter suddenly sounded within Xiao Yan's heart. That laughter contained some relief and excitement.

# Chapter 607: True Body

The invisible fire python had suddenly become illusionary in the sky under a countless number of shocked gazes. While its body became thinner and illusionary, a cluster of invisible and unusual flame glow, whose existence could be clearly felt by people, grew increasingly bright at a certain spot under the huge mouth of the fire python.

Xiao Yan sighed in relief after seeing the large body of the invisible fire serpent becoming increasingly illusionary. He wiped off the perspiration that was like a stream on his face. Only after his mind quietly became relaxed did he feel the searing pain that filled his entire body. After being in such close proximity with the 'Fallen Heart Flame' earlier, he still ended suffering quite a bit despite being isolated by the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'.

"There will be a period of time in which the 'Fallen Heart Flame' will be in a weakened state after revealing its form. This period of time would be the golden opportunity for you to snatch it. Originally, I had wanted others to force it to this state, but it is really unexpected that you need rely upon yourself in the end." Yao Lao's laughter sounded in Xiao Yan's heart.

Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly. He focused all his attention on watching the increasingly illusionary invisible fire python. Silver-colored glows once again flashed and appeared underneath his feet.

"There is quite a significant difficulty in snatching the 'Heavenly Flame'. If it cannot be helped, unleash the strength that you borrowed from me to the maximum. That will allow your strength to be on par with Han Feng in a head on collision... although this may expose my existence, you must definitely get your hands on the 'Fallen Heart Flame'." Yao Lao was quiet for a moment before he suddenly voiced his thoughts.

Xiao Yan hesitated a little when he heard this before slowly nodding his head. He clenched his fist tightly as he softly spoke in his heart, "Relax, teacher. You have protected this disciple for so many years. In the future... it should be this disciple's turn..."

“Ke ke.”

The old spirit that was hidden within Xiao Yan's body laughed softly. A faint warmth caused the spirit to emit a weak glow. He was blind once. However, the Heavens did not treat him poorly. They did not allow him to experience the same harm once again. The kind of heart felt pain that came from being betrayed by one's kin penetrated deep into his bones.

“Ji!”

The sharp hissing sound once again venerated throughout the sky. Suddenly the invisible flame that had spread through the sky vanished, appearing as though it had never existed.

The high temperature in the sky also gradually fell following the disappearance of the flame that spread throughout the sky. However, no one paid much attention to this. At this moment, their gazes were all paused on the spot in the sky where the invisible fire python had disappeared. At that spot... a cluster of strange 'Heavenly Flame' that was around five feet in size was slowly rising.

This cluster of flame appeared to be invisible. However, no matter who it was that looked at it, they would feel a substance-like unique sense. The flame appeared to have something that was slowly flowing in it, much like a spirit.

Although this was merely a cluster of flame from its outer appearance, it gave people an extremely unusual feeling. This cluster of flame seemed to possess a human-like intelligence and spirit.

The entire sky was silent. Everyone had a surprised face as they watched the cluster of invisible flame. Was this cluster of flame the true body of the 'Heavenly Flame'?

“Xiao Yan, do it!”

Yao Lao's low cry suddenly sounded in Xiao Yan's heart while everyone was momentarily absent-minded.

Yao Lao voice had just sounded when the wings behind Xiao Yan's back were flapped. Finally, his body turned into a flowing light that shot toward

the cluster of invisible flame.

The moment Xiao Yan's body moved, a wild joy also erupted onto Han Feng's face below. The dark-blue flame in both of his hands swiftly rolled like a tidal wave. With his knowledge of the 'Heavenly Flame', he naturally clearly understood that after having just revealed its true body, the 'Heavenly Flame' would be at its weakest. When would he act if he did not act now?

"Stop Han Feng!"

Su Qian, who had been paying great attention to Han Feng and the experts of the 'Black-Corner Region' had a sunken expression when he saw Han Feng's actions. He waved his sleeves and cried out sternly.

During the time that Han Feng and Xiao Yan were entangled with the 'Heavenly Flame' earlier, all the Elders within the Inner Academy had taken the opportunity to recuperate the Dou Qi in their bodies. Hence, numerous human figures instantly rushed to the sky when they heard Su Qian's loud cry. Dou Qi wings leaped out and they formed a large human wall at the spot where Han Feng was.

"Gold Silver Brothers, friends from the 'Black-Corner Region', lend me a hand! Han Feng will thank you properly after we succeed!" Han Feng's expression also changed a little when he saw the numerous interceptions. He immediately turned to the various experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' and cried out loudly.

"Hee hee, you only need to concern yourself with snatching the 'Heavenly Flame'. We will help you stop these people!" The Gold Silver Brothers let out a strange 'tsk tsk' laugh. With a wave of their hands, the large group of human figures behind them rushed out like a sharp blade that pierced directly toward the hindering web of Elders from the Jia Nan Academy, twisting it until it was in tatters.

The chaotic great battle in the sky once again erupted as the large troops from both parties once again gathered.

Su Qian's expression was dark and solemn as he watched the defensive web that was broken. He was just about to act when two human figures

flashed and appeared. One was gold and the other was silver. Clearly, they were the strongest Gold Silver Brothers from the 'Black-Corner Region's' side.

"Hee hee, Elder Su. Isn't it just a cluster of flame? Why do you need to go all out like this..." The gold-robed brother smiled as he spoke to Su Qian while the silver-robed brother laughed strangely and agreed by the side.

Su Qian's gaze was filled with fury as he watched the two people appear next to him. A moment later, the fury on his face suddenly became calm. Both of his palms were extended out from his sleeves as his tone became dark and cold due to its indifference, "Looks like the Jia Nan Academy has been too nice to the 'Black-Corner Region' during these few years, resulting in all of you climbing onto our heads now. Alright... quite a lot of time has passed since the great battle back then. Looks like we need something that will shock and awe. In that case... I will start with the two of you."

The surrounding space suddenly began to ripple after Su Qian's words sounded. A majestic aura slowly surged out from the interior of the former's body. That aura was enormous to the point that no one present could match it.

The expression of the Gold Silver Brothers also changed a little as they sensed Su Qian's frightening aura that was basically raised to the limit. They crossed their hands and their two auras agglomerated together. Only then did they manage to endure against Su Qian. Although they were known to be able to fight with an expert Dou Zong when they joined hands, the party which would be at a disadvantage when they met with a more troublesome elite Dou Zong. After all, the gap between a Dou Huang and a Dou Zong was really too huge...

The entire sky began to vibrate because of these two majestic Dou Qis. While this was happening, Xiao Yan was the first to arrive at the cluster where the true body of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' due to the absence of anyone stopping him.

Although this cluster that was the true body of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'

did not move in the sky, the frightening temperature that it emitted still caused the surrounding space to be repeatedly distorted. Even Xiao Yan, who was close to it, had no choice but to use the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' and swiftly form a thick green fire armor around his body.

With the help of the isolation by the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', Xiao Yan managed to successfully approach the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. His gaze passed through the flame armor and eyed the invisible flame that was within close proximity, appearing as though he could obtain it just by extending his hand. Even with Xiao Yan's mental strength, he could not help but feel his breathing becoming hurried at this moment.

The green-colored flame surged swiftly on Xiao Yan's hand. Finally, it agglomerated into a large fire arm. Xiao Yan had just controlled it to grab the 'Fallen Heart Flame' when the face that was hidden under the armor suddenly turned a flushed red. His entire body instantly stiffened.

A cluster of hot Heart Flame had strangely surfaced within Xiao Yan's body at the spot where his heart was. It immediately unleashed a recklessly high temperature that was filled with destructive strength. Its intention was as though it wanted to completely incinerate everything within Xiao Yan's body.

The appearance of this Heart Flame seemed to be stronger than any other prior experiences that Xiao Yan had experienced. However, the Heart Flame did not help to refine his Dou Qi this time around. Instead, it was filled with a kind of destructive strength that Xiao Yan had never experienced before...

"Dammit..." A voice that contained hot air seeped out from the gap between Xiao Yan's teeth. The 'Green Lotus Core Flame' within Xiao Yan's body surged swiftly. Immediately, it firmly wrapped around the cluster of 'Fallen Heart Flame' before the latter's high temperature was completely unleashed!

"Be careful. This 'Fallen Heart Flame' specializes in summoning Heart Flames. Such a flame is very hard to prevent. If one is careless, one would be completely incinerated from inside out." Yao Lao reminded solemnly.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His body did not dare to make the slightest movement. This was because he had sensed that the closer he was to the cluster of 'Fallen Heart Flame', the hotter and more terrifying the Heart Flame that appeared in his heart was...

“Chi!”

During the time that Xiao Yan was at a stalemate with the 'Fallen Heart Flame', a ferocious wind suddenly shot over from behind. Xiao Yan's heart was cold. He could not be bothered about the standoff with the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. A silver glow flashed under his feet and his body suddenly disappeared. It was already over a dozen meters away from the 'Fallen Heart Flame' when it reappeared.

The heart flame that was writhing within Xiao Yan's heart gradually weakened after having withdrawn by a distance. He turned his head in a dark and cold manner only to coincidentally see Han Feng who had already broken through the circle blocking him. Clearly, the attack earlier was unleashed by him.

Xiao Yan's eyes narrowed as he watched Han Feng who had charged up and rushed to where the true body of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was. The green flame in his palm writhed as wisps of dense cold killing intent flashed across his eyes. This fellow was in such a rush to charge over but he had no idea that the closer he was to the 'Fallen Heart Flame', the more dangerous it was. At that time, it would be the best opportunity to take action to kill him!

“Xiu!”

A wild joy involuntarily surfaced on Han Feng's face as he looked at the 'Fallen Heart Flame' in such close proximity. At this moment, he no longer had any mood to be bothered about Xiao Yan whom he had forced to withdraw. As long as he grabbed the 'Fallen Heart Flame', it was possible for him to swiftly leave this place, hide himself and refine it. Once his refinement succeeded, forget about Su Qian, even that old headmaster of the Inner Academy would not be able to do anything to him should he return!

“The ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ is mine!”

Han Feng’s body flashed and charged into a radius of five meters from the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. The wild joy in his eyes had yet to completely disappear when his body suddenly stiffened just like Xiao Yan’s did earlier!

“Bang!”

The moment Han Feng’s body stiffened, Xiao Yan’s body disappeared from the distance in a lightning-like manner. Only the faint sound of rolling thunder resounded across the sky.

The expression of the stiffened Han Feng also changed the instant that the rolling thunder sounded!

# Chapter 608: Clash

Han Feng's expression immediately changed drastically when the thunder sounded. Only at this moment did he recall that the allure of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' had caused him to forget about a great enemy who was looking on covetously from not too far away!

Xiao Yan's figure appeared behind Han Feng in a ghost-like manner just as the latter's expression changed. His five fingers were tightly clenched, and the green-colored flame repeatedly withered over his fist. Finally, it carried a hot wind and violently smashed into Han Feng's back.

Han Feng had the intention of dodging as he sensed the sharp ear-piercing wind that contained a killing intent behind him. His intention was to dodge it, but due to his body suppressing the heart flame, the speed of his body and his reaction speed were all greatly weakened. Hence, he appeared to be only able to quietly wait for the arrival of the attack after his futile attempt to dodge it.

The sharp wind grew increasingly close and it pressed Han Feng's robes tightly onto his back. However, when Xiao Yan thought that the former would sit still, a ruthlessness suddenly flashed across Han Feng's face. His shoulder suddenly shook violently and a wave of deep blue flames immediately surged out from his shoulders.

Xiao Yan felt slightly surprised at Han Feng being able to divide his attention to defend at such a moment. However, this did not cause him to hesitate even a little. The force on his fist increased instead of weakening. Immediately, it carried a wild and violent wind as it penetrated through the dark-blue flame and heavily smashed into the former's... shoulder.

The moment Xiao Yan struck Han Feng, the dark-blue flame that was spread on the latter's back appeared to have been dragged by something as it suddenly shrank. It immediately became like a heavy hammer that heavily smashed into Xiao Yan's chest.

"Bang!"

The wild and ferocious force erupted at the point of contact. Two figures,

which were wounded, shot back. They flew for over ten meters in the sky before slowly coming to a stop.

Xiao Yan extended his hand to pat his somewhat tattered clothes in front of his chest. His expression did not change much. The earlier attack may have appeared fierce, but it was merely a last minute counterattack by Han Feng. All it did was to merely cause his chest to feel oppressed.

Compared to Xiao Yan, Han Feng, who was firmly struck by Xiao Yan's sneak attack, had a somewhat ugly expression. Although he eventually dodged Xiao Yan's fatal blow at the very last minute, the ferocious wind that was contained on the other's fist still caused half his arm to feel somewhat numb.

The human figures in the sky that were wrapped in green-colored flames and blue-colored flames faced each other from a distance. Each of their eyes carried quite an unfriendly killing intent.

Han Feng's gaze glanced at the chaotic battle that had erupted in the air. He frowned slightly. At this moment, he was pressed for time and could not be delayed by this fellow for too long. Otherwise, when an expert from the Jia Nan Academy was to free their hands, it was likely that the difficulty of him obtaining the 'Fallen Heart Flame' would increase greatly.

Han Feng raised his head as he mused. He narrowed his eyes and stared at the black-robed, young man who was smiling coldly in the distance. With a sudden smile, he cupped his hands toward the latter and laughed, "Ke ke, this little brother. I think that you are also an alchemist, no?"

Xiao Yan ignored this action of Han Feng who he was watching with cold eyes. He quietly maneuvered his Dou Qi and prepared to unleash an attack at any second.

"Since little brother is also an alchemist, I think that you should also know that only one kind of 'Heavenly Flame' can exist within a person's body. If the body were to contain a second 'Heavenly Flame', the 'Heavenly Flames' would reject each other and there would be a risk of one's body exploding." Han Feng smiled as he explained, "Hence, this 'Fallen Heart Flame' does not have much use to little brother now. If you are willing to

give me a favor, I will be willing to use a tier 6 medicinal pill to exchange for it. What do you say?”

The cold smile on the corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth expended upon hearing Han Feng’s words. He gently flapped the green fire wings on his back as he coldly mocked, “Since you are also aware that an alchemist cannot have two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flame’ existing in his body at any one time, why don’t you give this opportunity to me?”

Han Feng’s expression changed a little. From the tone that Xiao Yan had used, Han Feng’s heart became clearly aware that the chances of persuading Xiao Yan to step back were basically insignificant. The smile on his face was slowly withdrawn as he raised his arm. His gaze watched the dark-blue flame that was flashing playfully on it as he spoke indifferently, “In that case, I will... also take your ‘Heavenly Flame’!”

As the last word sounded, the dark-blue flame that was wrapped around Han Feng suddenly exploded. A figure that moved in a ghost-like manner leaped toward Xiao Yan like lightning. The sound of the wind and killing intent spread all over the sky.

“I am coincidentally interested in your ‘Heavenly Flame’. It is difficult to say for certain who will end up taking the other’s flame!” Xiao Yan, who had been placing his attention on Han Feng’s body, sensed something the moment the latter’s body flashed. He let out a cold smile as rolling thunder sounded from under his feet. His body had similar disappeared suddenly. The next time it reappeared, it was surprisingly intersecting with that ghost-like figure!

“What a wild and arrogant little brat. You were still drinking milk at some unknown place when I became renowned in the continent!” Han Feng coldly smiled when he saw that Xiao Yan actually showed no signs of dodging. The dark-blue flame surged out from his body and swiftly agglomerated on both his palms. They appeared just like heavy waves that came layer upon layer. If one were to look carefully, it was surprisingly just like an actual sea wave that filled one’s heart with shock.

“I want to see whether your ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ is stronger or this

‘Sea Heart Flame’ of mine is better!”

With a sharp cry, Han Feng pushed both his hands forward. The deep blue flame that swiftly agglomerated on his palm immediately erupted in a loud wave-like sound as it rumbled and swept toward Xiao Yan!

Han Feng had unleashed a lethal attack as his first move. It appeared that he was no longer concerned about retaining his strength in order to save time.

“Be careful. This ‘Heavenly Flame’ condenses into a shape. The formed shape of the ‘Heavenly Flame’ has an extremely frightening strength!” Yao Lao solemn cry suddenly sounded in Xiao Yan’s heart, causing the expression of the latter to change slightly.

Xiao Yan’s expression was serious as he watched the dark-blue flame that came sweeping over from all directions. Being engulfed by the fire wave, he even felt a feeling as though he was present in a large ocean. He inhaled a deep breath of hot air and all the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ within his body that could be maneuvered surged out from Xiao Yan’s body!

The ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ that agglomerated above Xiao Yan’s head also became increasingly emerald-like in color as the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ surged out unceasingly. In the blink of an eye, the flame began to wiggle in a strange manner. A moment later, a green-colored lotus that was completely formed from the gathering of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ suddenly surfaced.

This green-colored fire lotus was like a transparent emerald. Threads of green-colored lava-like strands were flowing unceasingly within it, appearing extremely beautiful.

“Condensing into form... is not something that you alone know!”

The green-colored lotus rotated slowly. Xiao Yan suddenly widened his eyes and watched the surprise in Han Feng’s eyes not far away. He let out a cold laugh as he pushed his palm. That green-colored lotus appeared in front of his palm as though it had teleported. Immediately, it carried an incomparable force as it heavily collided with Han Feng’s overlapping

waves.

“Bang!”

The entire space became silent the moment the two came into contact. Immediately, a furious thunder-like explosion suddenly reverberated across the sky!

Green and blue fire waves adulterated with one another as they swept out in all directions. Even the clouds high in the sky were shattered by the fire waves wherever they passed, forming white spots that came shattering down from the sky.

The frightening energy ripples that suddenly erupted in the sky also caused the chaotic battleground to be slightly quiet. Quite a number of people quietly sucked their tongues as they sensed the terrifying energy that was contained in the fire waves. Was this the destructive strength when ‘Heavenly Flames’ collided? It did indeed cause people to feel a chill...

Two human figures which were shaken by the ferocious strength until they were forced back dozens of meters slowly appeared in everyone’s eyes only after the fire waves had gradually subsided. The moment they saw the two miserable figures, the expressions on everyone’s faces immediately changed a little.

Xiao Yan was panting hard. The sleeves on his arms had been completely shattered. A large charred black scar was on his hand. Even his face was also mixed with a faint paleness.

Although Xiao Yan appeared miserable, Han Feng in the distance was similarly not any better. His robe was in tatters, his hair unkempt and his breathing was ragged. However, he did not pay even the slightest attention to his miserable body at this moment. His eyes were filled with shock and disbelief as they watched Xiao Yan on the opposite side. That manner was as though he had seen a ghost.

Xiao Yan’s gaze watched that comical manner of Han Feng and could not help but part his mouth to laugh. His white teeth caused the latter to feel a chill all over his body, “Have you discovered it?”

Han Feng's finger trembled as it pointed at Xiao Yan. He panted heavily for quite a while before his sharp hoarse voice sounded through the sky, "You... you... what is the Qi Method... that you practice? Speak! Tell me! Otherwise I will kill you!"

The chaotic battle in the sky had stopped because of the ferocious and intense collision between Xiao Yan and Han Feng. Hence, all of them faced each other when they saw the somewhat crazy Han Feng, not knowing what they should do.

Xiao Yan merely smiled when he saw the somewhat crazy Han Feng. His smile may be brilliant, but that coldness caused one to feel a chill in one's heart, "Aren't you already clearly aware of it?"

These words from Xiao Yan were somewhat ridiculous in the ears of some people, but it caused Han Feng's eyes to shrink to the size of a pinhole after it entered his ears. That uneasiness that had been hidden within his heart slowly spread throughout his body. After that ferocious collision from earlier, he could clearly sense that the Qi Method which the other party practiced was shockingly very similar to his own! If he was to carefully sense it, Han Feng even realized that the Qi Method which Xiao Yan practiced was purer and more orthodox than his.

Flame Mantra!

Back then, he did not hesitate to secretly murder his own teacher in order to obtain this Flame Mantra. However, he did not accomplish his aim. In the end, all he did was merely obtain an incomplete Qi Method. However, it was this incomplete Qi Method that allowed Han Feng to subdue the 'Sea Heart Flame' and allowed him to possess his current status and strength!

However, the instant he collided with Xiao Yan earlier, he could clearly sense that the other party's Qi Method was even more orthodox compared to his!

There was only one kind of Qi Method that was even more orthodox and purer than an incomplete Flame Mantra.

That was a complete Flame Mantra!

Only at this moment did a wild killing intent for Xiao Yan surface from all directions within Han Feng's heart!

# Chapter 609: Terrified

The dark, cold killing intent that suddenly filled the sky also caused the expressions of quite a number of people to change. Although they were uncertain about what had exactly happened, it was clear by looking at Han Feng's appearance that he had truly formed the thought that Xiao Yan must be killed.

Su Qian waved his sleeves and forced back the Gold Silver Brothers who were pouncing over like vicious wolves. He tilted his head and watched the black-robed, young man in the air and a strange feeling flashed across his eyes. "This feeling..."

"Xiao Yan, hold him off for a while. I will come and help you after finishing off these two old fellows." Su Qian's eyes gradually recovered after a flicker gradually flashed past it. His loud laughter resounded through the sky.

"Ke ke, First Elder need only deal with them. Xiao Yan is not that weak." Xiao Yan cupped his hands toward Su Qian as he laughed out loud.

"Hee hee, you got guts. Everyone has underestimated you, little fellow." Su Qian laughed in a manner that suggested the presence of a deeper meaning before Dou Qi erupted from Su Qian's body in all directions. He immediately watched the serious faces of the Gold Silver Brothers with an icy-cold expression. With a cold laugh, his body flashed and charged forward in a ghost-like manner. Seeing this sharp attack of his, the Gold Silver Brothers did not dare to underestimate it. They hurriedly joined hands to meet their opponent.

Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze from Su Qian's body. He let out a cold smile as he faced Han Feng on the opposite side who had killing intent on his face. With a flick of his finger, a wisp of green flame began to dance playfully in front of him, appearing like a spirit. He watched the flame and laughed softly, "You want to kill me?"

Han Feng's face twitched slightly. He forcefully halted his impulse to immediately charge over and cause Xiao Yan to disappear from this world.

His voice was dry and ear-piercing, "You... where did you get this Qi Method from?"

Xiao Yan smiled. He had yet to reply when a powerful spiritual strength suddenly entered his body. The instant that Spiritual Strength entered his body, Xiao Yan could clearly sense that the strength that he could control had once again soared greatly.

"Teacher... you?" The sudden change also caused Xiao Yan to be startled. Would Han Feng on the opposite side not discover after Yao Lao poured all of his strength into Xiao Yan at this moment?

"Ke ke, he will discover it sooner or later. Since that is the case, let's give him a 'surprise'." Yao Lao's faint laughter sounded in Xiao Yan's heart. However, the last few words appeared somewhat ice-cold.

Xiao Yan hesitated slightly before nodding his head. The seal on his hand moved and completely undid the suppression of that enormous Spiritual Strength and allowed it to merge with his body.

With all of Yao Lao's Spiritual Strength being loaned to Xiao Yan, the turbulent green-colored flame on the latter's body also became increasingly energetic, repeatedly emitting a 'hu hu' sound as it swiftly writhed.

The aura that suddenly soared over Xiao Yan caused Han Feng's expression to change slightly. His gaze stared intently at the former's body. A moment later, his body shrank abruptly. He seemed to be able to faintly sense a familiar strength as the green flame rose...

He searched his mind swiftly before finally focusing on an elderly human figure that was in the deep recesses of his mind.

An instant later, shock and panic immediately spread from deep within Han Feng's heart. The memory that came from long ago once again surfaced in his eyes, causing his entire body to tremble intensely.

His face that was filled with killing intent had been replaced by a strange paleness. Shock filled Han Feng's eyes as he watched Xiao Yan on the opposite side. A moment later, he appeared to have used all of his

strength in order to emit an extremely shocked and panic-filled voice, “You... You didn’t die! How is that possible?”

Xiao Yan’s gaze was indifferent as he stared at Han Feng whose face had suddenly become white. He responded, “All thanks to you, I was given the chance to meet Teacher. Otherwise, this training journey of mine might have been much less interesting.”

“Teacher?” Han Feng’s eyes slightly narrowed. His gaze stared unblinkingly at Xiao Yan. The paleness that had just appeared on his face gradually reduced. Those eyes flickered and an even denser killing intent surfaced on his face. The news that Yao Lao did not die was like thunder to him. As Yao Lao’s former disciple, he clearly knew just what kind of gathering ability that Yao Lao possessed on the continent back then. Even until now, those experts who were truly at the peak still had great memories of the ‘Yao zun-ze’ who had shaken the continent back then. Han Feng did not doubt just how many strong people at the peak would come if news were to spread that Yao Lao was still alive.

Most importantly, Yao Lao had quite a good relationship with those experts at the peak. For example, the so called Feng zun-ze was in Yao Lao’s debt for having been reborn. Hence, even after Yao Lao had disappeared for so many years, this person was still searching for traces of Yao Lao without stop. He had even investigated Han Feng a couple of times. Since he did not have the slightest evidence, he was unable to do anything to Han Feng. However, Yao Lao did not disappear with the wind like Han Feng had imagined. Instead, Yao Lao had survived. Han Feng did not dare to imagine just what kind of terrible state he would descend into if Yao Lao quietly spread the news of Han Feng murdering him back then!

At that time, it was likely that the so called Feng zun-ze would slice his skin open and pull out his ligaments. A legendary expert of the Dou Zun class was something that the current Han Feng did not dare provoke.

Han Feng’s expression became volatile as this thought rolled in his heart. In the end, he finally decided on being savage, dark and cold. If he wanted to live, he must force Xiao Yan and Yao Lao to shut their mouths forever. Only a dead person could truly be trusted.

Killing intent surged on Han Feng's face. He was just like a poisonous snake hidden in a dark corner as he spoke with a hoarse voice, "Old man who won't die, today, I will get both of you to shut your mouths forever regardless of whether you are dead or alive."

Xiao Yan was expressionless. He flipped his hand and an even more ferocious green flame surged out from within his body. Finally, it lingered and whizzed like a tornado above his head.

"I'm afraid that you don't have the ability." Green flame danced on Xiao Yan's finger as his voice was like an old well without ripples, much like his current expression.

"Hee hee, so the reason why you are this strong is because you have borrowed the Spiritual Strength of this old fellow who won't die. However, it is really unexpected that the 'Flame Mantra' that he refused to pass to me despite having bitterly begged for it back then now actually belongs to a little brat like you. Does he think that you are better than me?" Han Feng gave a dense smile. His voice faintly contained a jealousy and hatred that was difficult to hide.

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth was lifted into a faint cold smile. However, he did not say any other unnecessary words.

"If he had passed the 'Flame Mantra' to me back then, I would still treat him with respect. However... who could blame the poor eyesight of that old man who won't die? Did he not understand my talent?" Han Feng's face was somewhat flushed and he was a little agitated. He had always thought that if Yao Lao was willing to hand the 'Flame Mantra' to him back then, the entire situation would be completely different.

Xiao Yan acted as though he did not hear anything when faced with Han Feng's hissing exhaustive roar. However, the flickering killing intent in those dark-black eyes grew increasingly dark and cold... The green flame that was churning over his head suddenly surged down and agglomerated into a huge green-colored fireball on Xiao Yan's right hand. His left hand immediately began to spread slowly. Finally, he summoned a cluster of dense white flame under Han Feng's shocked gaze as the latter abruptly

ceased speaking.

Han Feng's face completely solidified following the appearance of this dense white-colored flame. A moment later, both his eyes turned completely red as he hissed, "'Bone Chilling Flame'... that old fellow who won't die even handed this to you? On what grounds?"

"A bastard who devours his teacher actually has the qualification to say such things?" Xiao Yan laughed softly and shook his head. The green and white flames on both his hands slowly approached. Finally, they began to make contact under Han Feng's stunned gaze.

The two colors intertwined and an unusual temperature immediately spread over the sky. Threads of flame-like lightning flickered at the point where the two clusters of 'Heavenly Flame' made contact. The contact of these two 'Heavenly Flames' caused space to shake at this very moment.

Han Feng temporarily withdrew the jealousy and fury within his heart as he watched Xiao Yan's actions. Even with Han Feng's experience, he also had difficulty understanding it. Did Xiao Yan not know the characteristics of 'Heavenly Flames' not being able to merge? Although he was puzzled in his heart, Han Feng did not simply sit back and watch. He clenched his fist and the dark-blue flame swiftly agglomerated. Finally, it solidified into a substance-like dark-blue trident.

Han Feng held the fire trident that was over twenty feet in size. The confidence in his heart once again soared a little. His gaze was dark and cold as he glared at Xiao Yan who was doing his best to control the two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame'. "Old man who won't die. I know that you are in his body. However, today, I will no longer give you any chance to escape alive!"

An extremely majestic blue-colored flame suddenly surged out from Han Feng's body in all directions as the voice sounded. The flame churned immediately, and it smashed down with a bang, like an enormous wave. Finally, it completely poured into the fire trident.

With the pouring in of such majestic flame, the fire trident instantly soared by dozens of feet. The hot dark-blue flame writhed unceasingly

over it and the repeated bang of the waves rang beside one's ears.

"Junior, this Senior will allow you and teacher to be buried here forever!" The enormous fire trident surfaced on Han Feng's hand. He involuntarily moved his mouth as he sensed the majestic strength contained within it. A slight voice that carried a dark coldness was transmitted into Xiao Yan's ear,

Xiao Yan lifted his brows slightly. His eyes still paused on the intertwining 'Heavenly Flames' on his hand. An instant later, his eyes suddenly became stern as his palms slammed together violently. These two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' that refused to merge even after a long while finally maintained an equilibrium. A bright intense light was immediately emitted from it, appearing much like a sun as it attracted the attention of many.

The intense light that suddenly appeared caused quite a number of gazes to be thrown over. A moment later, the intense light was weakened and the scene was finally clearly viewed by one's eyes.

A black-robed, young man was suspended in mid-air with a two foot wide green-white lotus slowly suspended above his palm. This green-white lotus was not very conspicuous. Compared to the green-purple flame that Xiao Yan had used, this flame appeared to be much more reserved. There was basically no energy that seeped out from it. However, as long as one had sharp eyes, one would discover that as the green-white lotus slowly rotated, the surrounding space would become strangely distorted.

Moreover, an ordinary person may not be able to sense how terrifying the fire lotus was but Su Qian and the Gold Silver Brothers who were engaged in the full swing of battle at a certain spot in the sky, suddenly halted their fight without any prior agreement. They suddenly turned their heads and immediately threw their eyes toward the green-white lotus in Xiao Yan's hand. Their eyes were filled with a terror that was difficult to hide.

This strength was something that caused even them to feel a kind of... terror!

# Chapter 610: Large Scale Angry Buddha Lotus Flame

The green-white lotus flame appeared to be cast of stone. It was crystal clear and extremely beautiful. However, under this beautiful exterior hid a strength that caused even an expert of Su Qian's class to feel a great fear for it!

The green-white lotus flame was suspended at a spot around half an inch above his palm, rotating slowly. The latter watched this beautiful fire lotus that was as perfect as artistic work, and the redness on his face quietly became much paler.

The large scale Angry Buddha Lotus Flame was Xiao Yan's final trump card. This trump card was something that he would never use unless it was a life or death situation. This time around the killing intent within Xiao Yan's heart when faced with this 'Senior,' who had once caused Yao Lao an immense amount of damage, was not any weaker than the killing intent the latter felt toward Xiao Yan. The usually calm and kind Yao Lao would become extremely solemn, dark and chilly each time he heard this name. Xiao Yan could even guess just how agitated the hidden Yao Lao's heart was when Xiao Yan had faced off against Han Feng earlier. Given Yao Lao's calm character, he was actually unable to restrain himself and had loaned Xiao Yan all his strength despite risking his own exposure. Xiao Yan understood the meaning behind it very well.

Yao Lao wanted Xiao Yan to use all of his strength to kill this person who had once murdered his teacher!

Xiao Yan was able to reach this step after all these years mainly because of Yao Lao's protection. If he had not been present, it was likely that Xiao Yan would not know which corner he would have perished in. The latter had indeed put in all his effort in order to get Xiao Yan to become strong. This old man who had once had his heart seriously injured truly regarded Xiao Yan as his disciple.

The effort that Yao Lao had given Xiao Yan also caused the former to

possess an extremely high position in the latter's heart. It was said that a teacher was like a father. There was nothing unsuitable in using this to describe the relationship between Xiao Yan and Yao Lao.

Since this was the case, if Yao Lao needed Xiao Yan to go all out to kill this person who murdered his teacher, Xiao Yan would naturally do his best to achieve Yao Lao's desire!

The expression of Han Feng also became extremely solemn as the green-white fire lotus slowly rotated. He could similarly vaguely sense just how frightening the energy contained in the fire lotus was.

Perspiration faintly appeared on Xiao Yan's forehead. Han Feng did not expect that this fellow, who could barely fight on par with him, despite having borrowed Yao Lao's strength was actually hiding such a terrifying trump card. A merger of two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame'. That destructive strength...

As an alchemist, Han Feng clearly aware that the strength of the flames would multiply after two kinds of flames merged. However, a fire was not only wild, violent and untamed in nature, but each also had their own characteristics. The chances of merger were extremely low. If one were to forcefully merge them, it was likely that he would be the first to be killed by the backlash. He had once experimented with it on a whim back then. However, how would the merger of flame be an easy thing? Even given that character of his, he could not help but give up after failing many times. It was the case for an ordinary flame, much less that of a 'Heavenly Flame', an extremely dangerous object that would explode upon contact. The merger of two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' was likely something that anyone who had any sense of reasoning would not choose to try.

However, the Xiao Yan back then had somewhat lost his sense of reasoning when he forcefully merged the two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame'. After which, he had even managed to find a unique equilibrium with extremely great luck. It was due to this that he had created the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame', something that could be called terrifying.

"This lunatic!"

Han Feng quietly cursed. He had just increased his defense when the black-robed, young man opposite of him moved. This caused Han Feng to hurriedly throw his focus over.

The green fire wings on Xiao Yan's back flapped slowly. Although he could clearly feel a faint exhausted feeling within his body the moment the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' was formed, he was currently no longer the little novice who was just a Dou Shi back then. After nearly a year of training, his control over the flame had become increasingly practiced. Back then, when he used the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' for the first time, he had ended up unconscious for half a month and had even caused Yao Lao's spirit to become exhausted, falling into a long and deep slumber. The second time he used it at the Misty Cloud Sect may have been better than the first time, but it also caused him to become as weak as a dying old man. However, this time around there may be still an exhausted feeling in his body but he was at least able to maintain quite a strong fighting strength.

The three time he used it at three completely different times was evidence of Xiao Yan's swift growth. Perhaps, in the near future, he would be able to unleash a true 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' by simply raising his hand. At that time, the name 'Xiao Yan' would likely resound throughout the entire continent!

Xiao Yan slowly raised his hand and parted his mouth to smile at the solemn faced Han Feng in the distance, revealing his white teeth. "Senior, today, allow this junior to clean up the sect."

Han Feng's eyes became cold. The hand that enormous fire trident slowly tightened as his voice spoke in a hoarse manner, "Little brat really knows how to brag. What kind of scene have I, Han Feng, not seen after so many years?"

Xiao Yan smiled. A dense coldness drew past his dark-black eyes. With a flick of his finger, the green-white fire lotus, which had been suspended in his hand, immediately emitted a 'chi' sound as it shot out. The entire sky appeared to have become like the surface of a lake where a stone was cast, as it vibrated intensely.

“Brat, go and die with that old one who will not die!”

“Sea Fire Halberd!”

Han Feng let out a stern cry as he watched the green-white fire lotus that came shooting over. His palm pushed forward with great force. Immediately, that enormous fire trident shot out explosively across the sky. It eventually turned into a dragon-like glowing flame as it collided with the green-white lotus flame!

Two glows rushed through the sky. The momentum of that green-white flame was not very special, and did not have many points which attracted one's attention. On the other hand, that fire trident had a shocking aura, leaving behind a trace of vacuum wherever it passed. A fire tail that was a couple of dozen feet long appeared to be like a comet that drew past the sky, carrying a frightening force that cracked the ground.

“All Inner Academy Elders, Move Aside!”

Su Qian's expression changed the instant the green-white fire lotus was shot out. With one palm, he shook the pale faced Gold Silver Brothers continuously back. Subsequently, he turned around and cried out toward the chaotic battleground which was not far from Xiao Yan and Han Feng.

The Elders retained some doubts after suddenly hearing Su Qian's loud cry, but they still immediately moved their bodies. They abandoned their opponents and flashed toward the ground in a lightning-like manner.

The experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' were startled as they saw the fleeing action of the Elders from the Inner Academy. They did not have time to make inquiries when that fire lotus and the enormous trident collided like meteorites not far above their heads!

The instant the collision occurred, the free energy of the entire area descended into a dull state in an instant. The clear sky had also become slightly dark.

“Bang!”

The dull state lasted for merely an instant before the two frightening energies violently erupted in the sky. The entire space had become

extremely distorted at this moment, much like it was a tower that was twisted by two great force. Deep folds could clearly be seen.

With the collision of the energy, a storm that contained the energy from the three 'Heavenly Flames' spread out from the center at a swift pace. The speed of this flame storm was extremely quick. In the blink of an eye, it descended onto the heads of the somewhat clueless experts of the 'Black-Corner Region' in the sky.

"Grug..."

Some of those strong people at the spot where the storm swept over could only flee in a miserable state as the flame burned. However, those who were weaker had fresh blood splattering out from them the moment of contact. Their clothes instantly turned into powder. If they had not went all out to use their Dou Qi to protect their bodies, it was likely that their bodies would have turned into powder within the fire storm.

All the experts in the sky where the fire storm swept over fled in a miserable state. Black smoke floated from their buttocks, much like a flying bird whose back had been lit with a flame. All the experts from the Inner Academy who had run away quickly were completely stunned when they saw the members from the 'Black-Corner Region' had suddenly suffered such a great loss. That firestorm was merely an energy ripple formed from the collision. It was really unexpected that that was already sufficient to turn those experts into such a miserable state. It was difficult to imagine just how frightening it would be at the point where the energy collided.

"Is this Xiao Yan's true strength? How frightening..."

Quite a number of Elders who usually had some relationship with Xiao Yan began muttering at this moment. It was really unexpected that this fellow who usually revealed nothing would actually be this frightening the moment he erupted.

The firestorm swept willfully around. However, amid all the chaos, no one discovered the cluster of Essence 'Fallen Heart Flame,' that remained still in the air, was completely swallowing the 'Heavenly Flame' that was

sweeping over without leaving any trace, much like a living being. As it swallowed this remnant of 'Heavenly Flame', its originally invisible body quietly became substance-like...

The space where the fire lotus and the fire trident collided in the sky had already become extremely distorted. Three kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' had collided at this spot. Even Xiao Yan and Han Feng could not clearly see the exact situation of the spot where the collision occurred.

"The trident's energy is becoming increasingly weaker. The enormous energy that the fire lotus has unleashed should also have reached its limit, right?" Han Feng's face was similarly completely pale at this moment. The so-called 'Sea Fire Halberd' also exhausted him quite badly.

Xiao Yan in the distance slowly lifted the corner of his mouth into an arc that was filled with a coldness while Han Feng was muttering to himself. "You want to block my 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' with this? Isn't that thinking just a little too simple..."

Following the voice, the distorted space where the energy collided appeared to have become a high tension rope that was suddenly released. It once again recovered its original shape. However, a green-white glow shot out from within it in a lightning-like manner as the space recovered. With a couple of flashes, it appeared in front of Han Feng under the latter's shocked gaze.

"Bang!"

Xiao Yan's seal quietly changed as his indifferent voice was slowly spat out from his mouth.

His voice had just sounded when the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame,' which had shrunk greatly after the collision with the 'Sea Fire Halberd,' expanded and shrank again. Finally, it appeared like a bomb as it suddenly exploded under Han Feng shocked gaze!

# Chapter 611: Swallow, Seal!

“Bang!”

An enormous firestorm appeared just like a mushroom cloud as it suddenly surfaced in the sky. An earth-shaking explosion caused the ears of many to ring. That wild and violent heat that came spreading from the sky caused shock to surge onto the faces of everyone.

A human figure appeared to be like a ball that had been violently struck by a hammer the instant the green-white mushroom cloud surfaced as it shot down from the sky. Fresh bright-red blood splashed over the sky along the way, appearing like a fresh bloody rainbow.

The expressions on the faces of those experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ changed drastically as they watched the human figure that shot to the ground from the sky. Although that aura was currently extremely weak, it undoubtedly belonged to Han Feng.

Everyone looked at each other. Some cold perspiration seeped out from their forehead. Their gazes turned toward the other side of the sky. A black-colored figure was panting heavily there. The green fire wings on his back had become partially visible. Clearly, this was due to the interior of his body becoming weak.

“This fellow... actually defeated Han Feng?”

Everyone muttered to themselves. The shock in their tone was extremely obvious. Han Feng’s strength was already at the peak of the Dou Huang class. Additionally, he had the ‘Heavenly Flame’ to support him. He would at least have the ability to fight even when meeting with an extremely powerful early stage Dou Zong. Only the Gold Silver Brothers in the entire ‘Black-Corner Region’ could contend with him. Today, however, this expert who possessed an extremely great reputation in the ‘Black-Corner Region’ was defeated and reduced to such a miserable state by a young man who appeared to be only around twenty.

The entire place was completely silent. Just what kind of reputation would one achieve after having defeated Han Feng, this expert who had

quite the reputation even on the entire continent? At the very least, the name 'Xiao Yan' would become familiar in the entire 'Black-Corner Region' in the future.

“Chi!”

Two rushing wind sounds suddenly sounded in the silent sky. Immediately, two figures flashed and swiftly landed beside Han Feng and grabbed him. Only then did they help avoid the ending where the latter's head turned into a cracked watermelon after landing on the ground.

Of the two who intervened, one wore gold and the other silver. Naturally, they were the so-called Gold Silver Brothers. Han Feng was different from Fan Lao where Fan Lao could simply die. It was difficult to measure Han Feng's value. Moreover, this fellow had yet to honor the reward for them to act this time around. How could he die?

The silver-robed old man grabbed Han Feng who was covered in fresh blood and placed his hand on the latter's chest. Only after sensing an extremely weak but still present heart beat did he sigh in relief.

“Is he still alive?” The gold-robed old man frowned and asked.

“Yes, there's still a breath. Fortunately, this fellow also has a 'Heavenly Flame' to protect his body. Otherwise, it would definitely have been impossible for him to survive that kind of explosion.” The silver-robed old man nodded and immediately smacked his lips. He raised his head and looked at the black-robed, young man in the distance before saying, “Where did this brat come from? Why have I not heard that such a powerful fellow existed in the Jia Nan Academy?”

“I don't know.” The gold-robed old man's face sank as he shook his head. His gaze was somewhat fearful as he stared at the enormous green-white mushroom cloud of fire. He subsequently looked at the experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' who had suffered great losses before speaking softly, “We cannot continue now. We should quickly leave. This fellow is seriously injured and unconscious. It is no longer possible to snatch the 'Heavenly Flame'.”

The silver-robed old man rolled his eyes before nodding slightly. He

showed a hand sign to those experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' and those fellows immediately rushed over. Finally, they gathered into a group and cautiously looked at those Inner Academy's experts who were looking at them with malice.

"Xiao Yan, are you alright?" Su Qian also sighed in relief when he heard Han Feng had become unconscious due to his serious injury. Having lost this leader, there was no longer a need to fear those remaining fellows from the 'Black-Corner Region'.

Xiao Yan barely revealed a smile after hearing Su Qian's cry. His pale-white face revealed the exhaustion within his heart. Although he felt somewhat regretful that Han Feng still possessed remnants of a breath, he did not have any other methods. Currently, the most important thing was that 'Fallen Heart Flame'!

That's right. The 'Fallen Heart Flame'... Xiao Yan's heart suddenly quivered. His gaze swept toward the spot where the former was originally at. His eyes immediately shrank!

That cluster of 'Fallen Heart Flame,' which had remained still in the sky, had unknowingly already appeared at the spot in the sky where the green white mushroom cloud formed by the explosion of the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' without anyone realizing. As it approached, an enormous suction force suddenly surged out!

Following the appearance of that suction force that enormous fire mushroom cloud appeared to have met a black hole as it swiftly moved and poured unceasingly into the cluster of invisible flame.

The time which Xiao Yan had glanced over earlier was coincidentally the time that the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was swallowing the mushroom cloud. The latter's strange action caused the uneasiness in his heart to soar. Although he was uncertain about the intention of the 'Fallen Heart Flame', Xiao Yan was still able to vaguely guess something after seeing this action. As a kind of pure 'Heavenly Flame', the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was able to swallow other 'Heavenly Flames' to strengthen itself. The fire mushroom cloud contained an extremely wild and violent 'Heavenly Flame' energy.

This was definitely like a natural tonic to a spiritual being like the 'Fallen Heart Flame'!

Su Qian and the others sensed something the moment the suction force erupted from the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. He immediately threw his gaze hurriedly over, only to have his expression change drastically.

"Stop it!"

Xiao Yan was the first to cry out loud. However, the Dou Qi in his body had temporarily signs of being completely empty due to him unleashing the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' killing move earlier. Hence, all he could do was to issue a reminder.

Xiao Yan's voice had just sounded when Su Qian made his move. The latter's body flashed and appeared around ten meters from the 'Fallen Heart Flame' in a ghost-like manner. However, he did not have the time to do anything when a large cluster of hot invisible flame charged over toward him, causing him to hurriedly dodge it.

The swallowing speed of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was frightening. In that short moment that Su Qian dodged, that enormous fire mushroom cloud appeared to be like a leaking balloon. It was completely swallowed into that large invisible flame less than ten feet in size. Everything occurred in just a couple of blinks.

The body of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' had suddenly turned increasingly bright after such a majestic fire energy entered its body. An energy that was even wilder and more violent than before slowly curled out from within its body and spread across the entire Inner Academy.

The expression of everyone present changed as they sensed the energy of the 'Fallen Heart Flame,' which had once again become wild and violent. Those Gold Silver Brothers no longer dared to stay any longer. With a cry, a large group of people shot toward the exterior of the Inner Academy in a fleeing manner, leaving behind dark and cold laughter containing a malice, which reverberated throughout the sky.

"Tsk tsk, Elder Su, I shall now leave that thing for you to deal with. Hopefully, I will not hear news that the Inner Academy was completely

destroyed tomorrow.”

Su Qian’s face was dark and cold as he watched the experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ who had taken the opportunity to flee. He turned his head and shouted sternly toward the countless number of students not far away. “Everyone, leave the Inner Academy. Go into the deep mountains!”

Those Inner Academy students who were gathered all over the top of some buildings also became a little chaotic after hearing Su Qian’s voice. The ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ in the sky may not have been enormous, but it was emitting a frightening destructive strength. They did not have the slightest doubt that the entire Inner Academy would be instantly destroyed if it were to descend!

“Wait, Xiao Yan is still there.” Zi Yan pointed at the black figure in the distance after being pulled by Lin Yan as she spoke in an anxious manner. Her pink little face that appeared to be carved out of jade appeared a little pale under the pressure of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’.

“Relax, he can protect himself. Even Medicine Emperor Han Feng from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ was defeated by him. He will be safer than us.” Lin Yan could only try to persuade her as he watched the sea of people who appeared to be fleeing from calamity. After which, he followed everyone as they swarmed out of the Inner Academy.

“All Elders, form the seal again! The survival of the Inner Academy depends on everyone!”

Su Qian watched the students who were fleeing the Inner Academy like floodwater. Only then did he speak to the Elders in a deep voice.

The faces of all the Elders were solemn when they heard this. Their bodies flashed up before forming a strange formation, encircling that cluster of ‘Fallen Heart Flame’.

“Xiao Yan, leave quickly!”

Su Qian was at the middle of the formation when he shouted to Xiao Yan who was still within the formation.

Su Qian's cry had just sounded when the 'Fallen Heart Flame' which had fallen into a silence after swallowing the fire mushroom cloud suddenly let out a sharp hiss. A green-colored glow slowly appeared on its surface, that seemed to be cast out of jade, much like a pair of eyes.

The hissing sound had just appeared when the 'Fallen Heart Flame' shot out under the shocked gazes of all the Elders. From the direction of its route, its target was actually Xiao Yan, who was pausing in the sky!

Xiao Yan's expression had once again changed after being once again locked onto by the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. He hurriedly maneuvered all the Dou Qi within his body as he turned around and rushed toward the exterior of the formation. Xiao Yan's speed had clearly been greatly reduced after using the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame'. On the other hand, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' had become even stronger after swallowing that 'Heavenly Flame' mushroom cloud. With such a difference, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was about to catch up to Xiao Yan in the blink of an eye.

"First Elder, form the seal quickly. Otherwise, we won't be able to stop it once that beast leaves!"

An Elder hurriedly shouted after seeing the 'Fallen Heart Flame' shooting explosively toward Xiao Yan.

Su Qian's face was as deep as water. He cried out, "Wait a little longer. Wait for Xiao Yan to leave."

"There's no time!" Another Elder's expression changed as he hurriedly spoke.

Su Qian's hand trembled slightly. All he did was use his eyes to stare at the 'Fallen Heart Flame' which was approaching Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan fled with all his might. Perspiration rolled down from his forehead like flowing water. His heart was just like a very tight robe as he sensed the hot temperature behind him. He did not dare to relax as his gaze stared at the edge of the formation not far away. As long as he managed to exit from there, he would be able to escape that death fire that was following him like a shadow!

“Faster!” Xiao Yan repeatedly muttered within his heart. However, the temperature behind him soared just as he was less than ten meters from the edge of the formation. He turned his head around with shock and his dark-black eyes saw that cluster of invisible flame came pouncing at him. The sea of flame flowed and was about to swallow him!

“Ha ha, this position of the hunter and the hunted has indeed been changed. It is just that I still failed to kill Han Feng in the end. Teacher, I’m sorry. I have implicated you...” Xiao Yan emitted his last bitter mutterings just before he fainted.

The silence in the sky appeared to solidify at this very moment.

Numerous students on the many treetops outside the Inner Academy saw Xiao Yan being swallowed by the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. All of them had suddenly become completely silent. Quite a number of female students covered their mouths and emitted numerous gasps.

The hearts of Hu Jia, Wu Hao, Lin Yan, and Zi Yan slowly sank while they stood at the top of a tree. Some of the members of ‘Pan’s Gate’ revealed dull gazes, appearing at a complete loss. That leader of theirs who had never been defeated in their eyes was actually being swallowed and destroyed by that flame in front of their eyes!

At that moment, the greatest support of ‘Pan’s Gate’ had completely collapsed...

“Bang!”

The ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ tried to charge out of the formation after swallowing Xiao Yan. However, an energy wall suddenly flashed in front of it and forced it back.

The sky was completely silent. Su Qian’s expression was dark and cold, and all the Elders were quiet. They merely went all out in transmitting the Dou Qi from within their body and maintaining the firmness of this energy wall. Xiao Yan’s contribution in this great battle that affected the life and death of the Inner Academy was something that no one could match. If he had not defeated two Dou Huangs, it was likely that the ‘Black-Corner Region’ would have successfully launched a sudden attack

on the Inner Academy!

However, this greatest contributor to the Inner Academy was actually mercilessly swallowed by a 'Heavenly Flame' in front of everyone's gaze at this very last moment...

"Everyone, maintain the energy wall properly. Leave the seal to me." Su Qian slowly recovered as he spoke with an expressionless face. He did not wait for any reply as a strange, circular, bright glow surged out from his body.

"First Elder..." Some of the Elders were initially stunned when they saw Su Qian's action. Immediately, they seemed to have understood something as they cried out in surprise.

Su Qian ignored the surrounding surprised voices. The glow that surged out of his body grew increasingly intense. However, following the increase in the glow's intensity, Su Qian's face also swiftly became pale-white and even transparent...

"Bastard, even if I risk this old life of mine, I will seal you forever in the magma today!"

The dark, cold voice carried a volcano like fury as it was roared out from Su Qian's mouth. Immediately, a ten-foot-long strange black glow swiftly surged out from Su Qian's body and finally formed a thick black energy web in the sky. The black web shook slightly after it was formed. The next time it appeared, it had covered the 'Fallen Heart Flame' in an extremely strange manner!

Threads of smoke immediately curled and rose from the 'Fallen Heart Flame' after the black web covered it. A sharp hiss resounded across the sky.

Su Qian's expression was pale. His breathing was as weak as gossamer. With a slight shift of his finger, the cluster of 'Fallen Heart Flame' that was struggling repeatedly slowly fell toward the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. It appeared to have sensed something when it reached the top of the tower and began to go all out in its struggle. Under its intense resistant, the black web also remained still just above the top of the tower

and had difficulty moving down.

“Grug!”

A ruthlessness flashed across Su Qian’s eyes as he saw that the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ was still able to resist. He violently smashed his chest and a mouthful of fresh blood was spat out. Su Qian’s hand suddenly pressed down as the fresh blood was spat out and an unusually deep, dark-black energy pillar shot out explosively from his palm. It immediately smashed heavily against the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’.

Hiss!

A sharp hiss was once again emitted from the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ after receiving Su Qian’s all out attack. It could no longer endure and was violently smashed into the deep underground magma world within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ while being wrapped by the black web!

“Seal!”

Su Qian hands formed a seal as he sensed the ‘Fallen Heart Flame,’ which was falling into the deep hold. A strange black glow surged out from within the tower. Finally, it agglomerated into a deep, dark-black energy barrier at the top of the tower. Above it was some strange energy lines that appeared to be meandering like some small snakes.

The moment that the seal on the top of the tower was formed, a rich black glow slowly flowed within the last layer that was connected to the underground. Finally, the black glow surged out and became like a black sea that completely covered the entire last level. It was impossible for anyone to enter this place in the future. The ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ that was sealed deep underground would no longer have any chance of escaping!

Su Qian’s body inclined slightly in the air after the seal was successfully formed. He immediately smashed head first toward the ground. Fortunately, an Elder reacted quickly and swiftly grabbed him. Only then did his body become stable.

Su Qian slowly opened his blurry eyes. At this moment, his aura was so weak that it was little different from an ordinary old man. He took a

glance at the sealed 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. This calamity of the Inner Academy was finally avoided. However... that young man who could have obtained the top achievement in the continent had died here...

"Seal the last level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' in the future. No one is allowed to enter, including me." A faint weak old voice slowly reverberated throughout the sky. The messy Inner Academy also caused everyone to descend into a silence.

"Additionally, remember that little fellow who sacrificed himself for the Inner Academy... without him, the Inner Academy would no longer exist. All of you might have been turned into powder and accompany these ruins during the eruption of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'."

"He is the most outstanding student in all the history of the Jia Nan Academy. No one came before him and perhaps, no will will come after him..."

"Remember that name. Ke ke, a stubborn little fellow..."

"Xiao Yan!"

# Chapter 612: Desperate Situation

Pain was the thing that had caused Xiao Yan to wake up from his unconscious state. A searing, bone deep pain!

Xiao Yan opened his somewhat blurry eyes with difficulty. A bright redness that was like fresh blood was captured by his eyes. He slowly widened his eyes. Only then did he manage to clearly see that this bright redness was countless magma flows slowly drifting about.

Magma?

Xiao Yan was startled for a moment, but then he suddenly became alert. With a sweep of his gaze, he was suddenly stunned to discover that his body was currently in the vast magma. Moreover, the position he was in was clearly deep within the magma. This was because no matter which direction he looked, all that he could see was bright-red magma.

Xiao Yan's gaze looked all around him and immediately discovered that there was a cluster of invisible flame at a spot around ten feet away. A cluster of invisible flame was burning turbulently. Moreover he himself... appeared to be within the stomach of this invisible flame?

Xiao Yan shook his head with all his strength. His somewhat blurry head slowly recovered its sharpness. Only then did Xiao Yan clearly remember that he appeared to have been struck by the 'Fallen Heart Flame' and subsequently lost his attention... then, where was this place?

"This is somewhere deep underground, the place where the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was born." A somewhat weak old voice suddenly sounded within Xiao Yan's heart.

"Teacher? How are you?" Xiao Yan suddenly heard this familiar voice when he was at a loss. Xiao Yan immediately appeared to be like a person who had been grasping at straws after falling into water as he hurriedly asked in his heart.

"I can still endure for a period of time. Little fellow, it has been nearly half a month since you have been dragged here by the 'Fallen Heart

Flame'. It has been trying to refine you during this period of time, or perhaps it should be the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' within your body. I have been using the 'Bone Chilling Flame' to protect you during this period that you were unconscious. However, it is too exhausting. I am unlikely to hold out for much longer. At that time, you can only rely on yourself." Yao Lao's voice was anxious because it was weak.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He swept his gaze around. Only then did he realize that his body was covered by a layer of dense white-colored flame. A large cluster of invisible flames outside the flame was lingering like small snakes. Despite being isolated by the 'Bone Chilling Flame' the frightening temperature was still able to cause Xiao Yan's skin to transmit waves of intense searing pain. The thing that had woken him from his unconscious state earlier was this deep bone-searing pain.

Panic surged in Xiao Yan's heart. Immediately, he tried to calm himself as his voice asked dryly, "What can I do to escape from this place?"

There was a silence after these words sounded. It was a long while later before Yao Lao's similarly bitter voice sounded, "I don't know. This place is deep underground. In here, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' basically has never ending strength. If I recovered the strength at my peak, I might be able to break its seal... Moreover, the current place we are in is definitely deep within magma. If the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was to release the surrounding flame, it is likely that you would be immediately swallowed by this hot magma. Even though you have a 'Heavenly Flame', it is unlikely to support you until you can exit the magma."

"... In that case, we can only wait to die?" Xiao Yan's body trembled as he muttered. Even with Yao Lao's ability, he was unable to do anything in such a desperate situation. Won't it mean..

Yao Lao softly sighed, but was unable to give a reply. Were it not because of the existence of the 'Bone Chilling Flame' Xiao Yan would have been incinerated by the 'Fallen Heart Flame' until the point where not even ashes would remain the moment he fell unconsciousness.

Xiao Yan tightened his fist. An unwillingness flickered in his dark-black pupils. There were many things that he still needed to do. The humiliation of the Xiao clan required him to cleanse and he needed to search for his missing father. Moreover, the promise he had given to a young lady, to become a strong person and appear in front of her... therefore...

“I cannot die here!”

Words that were filled with stubbornness and determination slowly spat out from the young man’s mouth. What kind of hardship had he not endured during these many years? Would he not have suffered all those hardships for nothing if he were to give up? The hard training he had undergone all these years to raise his strength had allowed him to possess an extremely tough character and backbone!

“Ke ke...” Yao Lao also laughed softly as he sensed that strong determination to live. He spoke, “Little fellow you are always able to rouse such fighting spirit. Since this is the case, I will lend you a hand even if I have to risk these old bones of mine.”

“Remember, my ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ may be able to endure for only three more days. After three days, I will completely pour my remaining Spiritual Strength into you. After which, I will descend into a slumber because of the exhaustion of my Spiritual Strength. Everything else will be up to you. I hope that I will be able to see a lively student when I reawaken.”

Xiao Yan was silent. A moment later, he clenched his teeth and nodded. His eyes became slightly red as he whispered, “Teacher, relax, this disciple has promised you that I will refine a body that can accommodate your spirit. How can I throw my life here?”

“Ke ke, little fellow, make the most of the time to recuperate. You can only rely on yourself for everything after three days...” Yao Lao laughed as he spoke softly.

Xiao Yan nodded heavily. He ceased speaking any nonsense as he crossed his legs. He was just about to enter his training state when he mused for a moment and took out an extremely beautiful green-colored

lotus platform from within the storage ring and sat on it with a twist of his body.

The searing hot pain was greatly reduced after Xiao Yan sat on the green-colored lotus platform. It appeared that this lotus platform that was birthed from the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' was quite effective in isolating the temperature.

"I have forgotten you still have this treasure. With this lotus platform, the chances of you escaping alive might increase a little." Yao Lao gave a strange laugh as he sensed the temperature which had quietly reduced a little. He immediately mused for a moment before speaking, "If you are unable to endure any longer after I fall into a slumber, you can consume the 'Ground Spirit Pill'. It will allow you to resist a little longer. Originally, this thing is supposed to be used to refine the 'Fallen Heart Flame,' but from the looks of the situation, no one can tell who will end up refining who..."

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. After which, he slowly shut his eyes and began to absorb the surrounding fire affinity energy to allow his body, which had been weakened after the great battle, to recover.

Yao Lao was silent for a long after as he watched Xiao Yan who had gradually entered the training state. Only then did he let out a soft sigh.

"Little fellow, this is perhaps a catastrophe that you have to undergo. I have a premonition that if you are able to successfully flee from this place, you will shed your cocoon and become a butterfly. At that time, you will become a truly strong person!"

Over half a month had passed since the earth-shaking battle that day. The Inner Academy, which had originally turned into a complete mess during that battle, had gradually been straightened out. The 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' still remained opened. What caused everyone to be most joyous about was that this place still possessed the effect of allowing one to raise the speed of one's training. Such a reward was something that caused everyone, including Su Qian, to be extremely joyous about. However, when they recalled that there was a young man who might have

already been turned to dust in the deep region of the tower, the joyous heart was covered by a layer of sorrow.

Although the great battle was already over, that name, that young man, was like an imprint that everyone had difficulty forgetting as Su Qian had said. Perhaps, after many years, when the students graduated and became the strong people of an area, they might still occasionally recall the earth-shaking battle that had erupted in the Inner Academy back then as well as that figure. He had saved all of them.

Although 'Pan's Gate', which had lost Xiao Yan, was covered by a layer of dark atmosphere, the strength of this faction became like a snowball. Despite having lost their leader, Xiao Yan, 'Pan's Gate', this faction, which had not even been established for a year, could already be compared with the factions of Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing after the announcement by Zi Yan that she would join them. From that kind of special atmosphere of 'Pan's Gate', this young faction may perhaps become the top of the entire Inner Academy as time flowed by, and there would no longer be any factions that could contend with it.

Of course, the current 'Pan's Gate' was naturally managed by Wu Hao, Hu Jia, and the others after having lost Xiao Yan. Ultimately, however, the two only occupied the position of deputy leader. Each member who entered 'Pan's Gate' would be clearly told that the true leader of 'Pan's Gate' was that hero who had rescued the entire Inner Academy. He was called Xiao Yan!

This custom continued with the passage of time. Perhaps many years later, there would be people who had forgotten the instructors of the Inner Academy. However, this name would be like an imprint in their hearts that was difficult to forget.

.....

The eighth level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

A large group of Elders who held extremely high positions in the Inner Academy were gathered here. Leading them at the front was an Elder who was seated on a wheelchair. His white hair caused him to appear

extremely old.

“First Elder, this place has been completely sealed according to your instruction. This door which leads to the last level has already been sealed. There will no longer be anyone who can charge in.” An Elder bowed to the old man who was seated in a wheelchair and spoke respectfully.

From the form of address, that old man whose head was covered in white hair was actually First Elder Su Qian. Although his current appearance was exceptionally old compared with his previous self. Were it not because of the occasional stern cold glint that would flash across his eyes, anyone would have thought that he was an old man who did not have any strength to retaliate.

“Have you investigated all the backgrounds of those experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ who participated in the attack on the Inner Academy?” Su Qian’s gaze paused on the black metallic door that led to the last level as his hoarse voice slowly sounded.

“We have clearly investigated all of them.”

“Give the instruction. Gather everyone in one month’s time. We will go and look for them one at a time. We will slowly return the humiliation of the Inner Academy.” Su Qian waved his hand and spoke in a cold and indifferent voice.

“Yes sir!” All the Elders responded in unison. A fury flashed across their eyes. The sneak attack by the experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ back then had not only been spread throughout the ‘Black-Corner Region’, but had also spread throughout the rest of the continent. If they did not retaliate, how would the Jia Nan Academy survive in the future?

Su Qian nodded slowly. The indifference on his face suddenly but slowly became less icy. His shriveled fingers crossed each other as he muttered, “All of you, do you think... he is still alive?”

Everyone faced one another, but no one dared to open their mouths. After being swallowed by the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ and being dragged deep underground. The odds of survival were against even someone who was an elite Dou Zong...

Su Qian also sighed softly, appearing to clearly understand what everyone was thinking. He said, "I heard that Xiao Yan still has a second brother who had once come to the Jia Nan Academy, After that, he seems to have gone to the 'Black-Corner Region'. Send someone to investigate and quietly protect him. Treat it as repaying that little fellow's favor..."

Su Qian waved his hand after saying this. The wheelchair turned automatically and carried a slight moving noise as it slowly disappeared into the darkness...

All the Elders sighed as they watched Su Qian's back disappear. Their gazes shifted toward the dark-black door before they slowly turned their bodies to leave...

As they left, none of them knew that at an unknown depth under their feet, the dense white flame on the surface of a young man was quietly weakening. The true torment and tempering was slowly arriving.

Perhaps no one knew that deep under the magma, the young man was transforming and struggling amid destruction. Whether it was to shed his carcoon and transform into a butterfly or to turn into dust... was something no one knew. This was because that place was a place filled with despair.

# Chapter 613: Appearance of the Snake

The thing that woke Xiao Yan up from his training state was the repeatedly sounding weak old voice within his heart.

Xiao Yan's tightly shut eyes were slowly opened after hearing Yao Lao's voice. His gaze glanced at the increasingly illusory dense white flame over his body and his heart involuntarily sank a little.

"Little fellow, I have already reached my limit..." Yao Lao sigh slowly sounded after having appeared to sense that Xiao Yan had awakened.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly as he softly spoke, "Teacher, you have worked hard..."

"Ke ke." Yao Lao laughed. His laughter had a frailness that was difficult to hide. "In another couple of minutes, you will need to block the refinement of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' on your own. Hopefully, you will be able to endure..."

Xiao Yan was quiet. A moment later, he smiled bitterly and said, "I will do what I can as a person. The rest is up to fate..."

No matter how much confidence filled Xiao Yan, he did not hold much hope in his chances of escaping from this hopeless environment where even Yao Lao could not sense much chances of survival. The only thing he could currently do was to do his best to hold out against the refinement of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' for a little longer.

Yao Lao gradually descended into silence. He clearly knew that his slumber this time around might be an everlasting farewell. His spirit may be able to hide in the ring that he had specially constructed, but the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was coincidentally able to counter that. Under the incineration of this kind of flame, even a spirit would end up being incinerated into nothingness.

Xiao Yan lifted his head slightly during the time that Yao Lao was quiet. His gaze swept over this large cluster of invisible flame. It was difficult to imagine that this flame actually possessed its own intelligence... Two faint

green lights suddenly surfaced from a certain spot within the invisible flame as Xiao Yan was looking around. It looked like a pair of eyes containing greed as they watched the spot where Xiao Yan was at. A cluster of invisible flame suddenly surfaced with a slight flicker of the green glow. Finally, it adhered to the dense white flame that was partially above Xiao Yan's body, incinerating and corroding it.

“Little fellow, prepare yourself.”

Yao Lao's soft sigh suddenly sounded. Xiao Yan clearly knew that Yao Lao had already reached his limit. He needed to rely on himself for everything else...

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth curled bitterly. He immediately inhaled a deep breath of air as his palm moved. Green flame flowed, following the Qi Paths in his body. Finally, it slowly seeped out and wrapped Xiao Yan's entire body in it.

The dense white-colored flame outside grew increasingly faint following the appearance of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'. Finally, it disappeared abruptly and the outermost layer of invisible flame swiftly swarmed in. It was about to burn the person inside when it was blocked by a cluster of green flame.

“Little fellow, you have to rely on yourself next. Hopefully, you can successfully endure this. The lives of both teacher and disciple are in your hands...” Yao Lao weak voice became increasingly faint. A moment later, it disappeared completely.

Xiao Yan clearly sensed Yao Lao's awareness swiftly withdrawing from his body as his voice disappeared. The instant that Yao Lao's awareness was about to completely withdraw, a powerful energy quietly swarmed out from Xiao Yan's body, causing his aura to soar greatly.

“Teacher, this student will not disappoint you.”

Xiao Yan bit his lower lip tightly as he felt a powerful energy filling him. A redness surfaced in his eyes. He clearly understood that Yao Lao had loaned all his remaining strength to him. The latter's body had once again hid inside the ring and descended into a slumber due to the exhaustion of

his Spiritual Strength.

After taking over Yao Lao's earlier work, Xiao Yan finally understood just how great the exhaustion from contending with the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was. Perhaps it was due to the gap between his strength and that of Yao Lao's. Although the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' and the 'Bone Chilling Flame' were both 'Heavenly Flames'. The protection that Xiao Yan received from the two flames was quite different.

Although Xiao Yan would feel searing pain when Yao Lao used the 'Bone Chilling Flame', it was not unbearable. However, when Xiao Yan was relying on himself to resist the 'Fallen Heart Flame' that searing pain had suddenly deepened greatly. Even the clothes on Xiao Yan's body were grilled by the high temperature until they were increasingly thin and brittle. They even broke into a large pile of powder as Xiao Yan moved his body, leaving behind the naked body that was seated cross-legged in the green lotus.

"Hiss..."

Xiao Yan's face twitched. Threads of cold air repeatedly seeped out from between the gap of Xiao Yan's teeth. His white skin had also become a sleek red due to the heat. Some areas had even quietly broken out with blisters. At a glance, he was in an extremely miserable state.

Xiao Yan forcefully suppressed the searing heart-wrenching pain. He took out a bottle of 'Energy Recovery Pills' from within his storage ring with much difficulty and stuffed all of them into his mouth. His body was being wrapped by the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. Although there was still fire energy drifting around his body, it was extremely difficult to absorb while under the control of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. Hence, Xiao Yan could only use medicinal pills to endure for a little longer!

"It is really unexpected that the 'Fallen Heart Flame' is actually this terrifying... no wonder even teacher is extremely afraid of it. However... according to this exhaustion rate, I'm afraid that I won't be able to endure for even a week." Xiao Yan's mouth was filled with medicinal pills as he eyed the seemingly never ending invisible flame on the outside. His heart

was filled with bitterness. This desperate situation caused people to be able to go nowhere.

“Looks like I can only hope for a miracle to appear...”

Xiao Yan's dry mouth moved as he sensed the torturous searing pain. It was a long time later that he slowly shut his eyes. He had already done his best. After this, it was up to fate to decide whether he was to live or die...

There was no concept of time in this never ending magma world and Xiao Yan did not have the slightest thought to pay attention to the flow of time under this inhumane torture. He only knew that he could turn to dust, like his clothes, at any time under this hot temperature and disappear in this magma world.

A solitude and loneliness that was difficult to describe swarmed deep into Xiao Yan's heart while under this torment. There was no sound other than the sound that was emitted from the flow of magma deep in the magma world. The entire world appeared to be completely isolated. That kind of loneliness and silence in the vast world once again caused Xiao Yan who was tortured by the high temperature to feel a sense of exhaustion and loss in his soul.

Perhaps he would forget just how moving the voice that was emitted when his throat trembled after living such a life for a long time. He might even forget his identity as a human. The solitude and loneliness of the world seeped deep into his bones and could not be removed.

Xiao Yan did not know how long he had endured. He merely sensed the increasingly hot temperature of the outside world as time passed. Fortunately, his skin showed faint signs of resistance to the flame after being grilled by it for such a long time. It was due to this that the repeated searing pain did not cause him to become insane.

On top of the intelligence that the 'Fallen Heart Flame' possessed, the flame also appeared to have a patience that was far beyond what any human could compare with. One would understand the reason for this after some thought. It would be strange if it did not have patience after staying in this place for so many years. Moreover, it was because of this

that it did not choose to use the most intense method to finish off Xiao Yan in the shortest amount of time. Instead it had chosen this kind of refinement with a slow flame. However, such slow refinement really did cause Xiao Yan to experience the feeling of being better off dead.

Xiao Yan's entire person appeared to be in a blurry state under the unceasing grilling by the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. He could only maneuver the green flame in his body in a mechanical fashion to repeatedly resist the burning of the flame. After which, he would also absorb the surrounding energy that was difficult to absorb in a mechanical fashion to supplement what his body needed.

This kind of mechanical operation caused Xiao Yan to faintly feel that he was becoming increasingly familiar with the control of the 'Heavenly Flame'. However, other than allowing him to save some of the unnecessary exhaustion of the 'Heavenly Flame', it did not appear to allow him to escape...

If this situation continued, Xiao Yan would likely be completely refined within a short period of time. The 'Green Lotus Core Flame' in his body would also be swallowed by the 'Fallen Heart Flame'...

Xiao Yan endured with great difficulty. No one knew just how long he had endured in this world without any concept of time. Perhaps it was two days, one week, half a month, a few months...

At a certain instant, Xiao Yan had woken up from this kind of half-conscious state. Waves of a cool feeling were transmitted from his arm. This cool feeling was like ground that had been dried for countless number of years suddenly meeting heavy rain. It caused Xiao Yan's entire spirit to tremble as he immediately opened his eyes. He tilted his head and looked at the seven-colored little snake that was lingering on his arm after having been forgotten for an unknown period of time...

"Heaven Swallowing Python?" Xiao Yan's muddled head suddenly recovered its clarity as he involuntarily cried out. Perhaps even he did not realize that his voice had become dry and hoarse compared to before.

One can imagine just how excited Xiao Yan currently was when he was

suddenly able to see something that could talk to him in this kind of lonely and isolated place, that caused one to become crazy.

However, Xiao Yan's heart suddenly leaped on top of his excitement when his gaze swept over those bewitching snake eyes. At this moment, the color of the latter's eyes was repeatedly changing. That icy coldness was occasionally filled with liveliness. Clearly... the two spirits within this little body appeared to be engaged in an intense fight for the control of the body at that moment.

Xiao Yan did not have any solution with regards to this fight. Hence, he could only watch with his eyes.

The fight continued for nearly ten minutes or so. After which, a bright seven-colored glow surged out from the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. The latter violently swung its tail as a tiny figure directly shot out. It immediately flew swiftly, and seeped out from the area that was surrounded by Xiao Yan's green flame.

The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' had just left the area surrounded by the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' when the 'Fallen Heart Flame' that was flowing freely outside pounced over. However, just before it made contact with its body, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' suddenly wiggled swiftly under that seven-colored glow. Immediately, a naked, lovely, perfect white-jade-like body slowly appeared in front of Xiao Yan's gaze.

Xiao Yan looked at the bewitching beautiful woman who was filled with allure as she appeared out of nowhere. His heart, however, slowly sank...

# Chapter 614: Intersection Between Life and Death

The naked beauty who appeared in front of Xiao Yan was bewitching and filled with allure. That nakedness that was accidentally revealed was sufficient to cause countless numbers of men to become crazy. Certainly, it would be more perfect if the cold, ice-like face of the beauty had the addition of human emotion...

Of course, no matter how beautiful the beauty in front of him was, it was not good news for Xiao Yan. After all, this woman was a little too frightening. Although he had an agreement with her back then, this temperamental Queen Medusa ultimately caused Xiao Yan to feel the greatest caution in his heart.

Queen Medusa had just revealed her form when the 'Fallen Heart Flame' sensed something. A large cluster of flame suddenly appeared and immediately swept toward the former. The hot temperature caused the expression of even someone with Queen Medusa's strength to change a little.

Queen Medusa waved her delicate hand gently, and a bright seven-colored glow surged out from within her body to completely suppress the invisible flame. Although she did not possess a 'Heavenly Flame', it was not easy for the 'Fallen Heart Flame' to refine her because of her powerful strength.

Only after Queen Medusa blocked the invisible flame did she sense the surroundings she was in were not quite right. Her gaze swept out in all directions. When she saw the endless magma outside the invisible flame, she knit her eyebrows. This was especially the case when her gaze fell on the invisible flame which was wrapped on the outside. Her cold and indifferent face had finally become ugly, "Heavenly Flame?"

"Hee hee, Queen Medusa, I'm really sorry. I had actually forgotten about you..." Laughter suddenly sounded. Queen Medusa's pretty eyes which were filled with doubt slowly turned toward Xiao Yan, who was seated

cross-legged on the green lotus. Her glamorous cold face immediately became chilly. She had never felt much good feeling toward this fellow who had been relying on the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' to threaten her.

Xiao Yan moved his body back a little without leaving any trace when he sensed the somewhat icy eyes of Queen Medusa. He was exceptionally fearful of this woman. In the past, he still had some confidence when Yao Lao was around. Now that Yao Lao had descended into a deep slumber, he really had no means to resist if she wanted to do something to him.

Xiao Yan's eyes swept across Queen Medusa's white-jade-like, lovely, pretty, naked body. Even though he clearly knew that this was a pretty female snake, who could instantly kill a person, his male nature still caused a nefarious flame to rise in his lower abdomen. This woman was really the nemesis of all males. One could not find any flaw on that heavenly masterpiece-like face. Moreover that extremely cold atmosphere caused a person's heart to be as itchy as a monkey claw. All men were like this. Their interest would grow when it comes to something that they clearly understood they could not obtain.

A beauty like a jade with a natural temptation that bewitched the world. This beauty in front of him appeared to be worthy of such an evaluation.

Although Xiao Yan's gaze had only roamed for an instant before it was swiftly turned away, it did not escape Queen Medusa senses. Her sleek, red lips lifted into a shallow arc that contained a coldness, "You don't want your eyes?"

Xiao Yan laughed dryly, but did not dare to reply. Who knew whether this temperamental woman would finish him off on the spot just because she was not pleased.

"Where is this place?" The bright seven-colored glow moved with a wave of her delicate hand. It immediately turned into a red-colored dress over Queen Medusa's naked body which covered the nakedness under it. Her long jade-like fingers pushed aside a strand of black hair that had drifted over her forehead as she opened her mouth to ask faintly.

Xiao Yan rubbed his head. He hesitated for a moment before roughly

explaining his predicament. However, after he spoke until the end, he clearly saw that Queen Medusa eyebrows had slowly become vertical. Her voice immediately weakened greatly.

“I really regret not killing you back then!”

Queen Medusa clenched her silver teeth. Her entire body was trembling. This fellow would actually bring her to this kind of place which was filled with death. Although her strength was great, she already possessed a fear toward this kind of flame after having evolved within the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ back then. However, she did not expect that the next time she controlled her body, she had been actually brought to this deep underground area by Xiao Yan. Moreover, there was a ‘Heavenly Flame’ which possessed an intelligence looking menacingly at them from the outside.

Xiao Yan smiled in an embarrassed manner. He spoke carefully, “I didn’t want to come here either. Your Majesty, don’t you agree that it is pointless for us to say anything. Why don’t we join hands, break this ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ and escape alive? What do you say?”

Queen Medusa’s pretty face was cold as she completely ignored him. Her pretty eyes stared at the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. A moment later, she waved her delicate hand and a seven-colored energy pillar shot out. It immediately smashed onto the flame. However, an attack of such strength did not have much use other than causing waves of ripples to form on the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’.

A solemnness flashed across Queen Medusa’s cold eyes when she saw that her attack did not have the slightest effect. Although the earlier attack was not her full strength, it was not something that could be underestimated. It was unexpected...

“This place is the place where the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ was born. It basically has an unending supply of energy in this place and it won’t be easy to break through it.” Xiao Yan at the side watched Queen Medusa’s action as he involuntarily spoke.

Queen Medusa’s eyebrows became vertical. She was about to hoot coldly

when the 'Fallen Heart Flame' which was suddenly attacked became somewhat angry. Clusters of invisible flame surged swiftly and immediately wrapped around Queen Medusa. The seven-colored glow on the surface of her body appeared to have slowly become thinner under the grilling of the frightening high temperature of the invisible flame.

The Dou Qi on the surface of Queen Medusa was burned until it became thin. Her pretty face changed a little after appearing to have sensed something. Those delicate hands of hers formed a strange seal, and a circle of seven-colored glow immediately surged out, shooting apart the invisible flame over her body.

Queen Medusa did not have the time to sigh in relief after the invisible flame had just be shot aside when she discovered that an increasing amount of invisible flame suddenly surfaced before sweeping toward her from all directions.

Queen Medusa's face sunk. She could only shrink back and withdraw her seven-colored Dou Qi before eventually forming a stalemate with the invisible flame beside her body.

"Where is that old fellow who is in your body? Get him out. With just your strength, we won't be able to break this 'Heavenly Flame' even if we were to join hands!" Queen Medusa continued the stalemate with the flame for awhile before finally recognizing that this was not a long term solution. She turned her pretty eyes toward Xiao Yan and cried out after that.

"Teacher has already fallen into a slumber..." Xiao Yan laughed bitterly as he spread his hands.

"Dammit!!" Queen Medusa became extremely furious upon hearing this. She raised her hand and the seven-colored energy in her palm churned repeatedly. From the looks of it, it seemed that she wanted to kill Xiao Yan with one palm.

"You won't be able to leave even if you were to kill me." Xiao Yan could not be bothered if he provoked this woman at this stage as he spread his hands and spoke.

“What kind of dangerous situation has this Queen not seen? It is not so easy if this ‘Heavenly Flame’ wants to hold me here!” Queen Medusa suddenly laughed coldly. Her body immediately moved and appeared at the edge of the flame in a ghost-like manner. A frightening wind was swiftly brewing on her delicate hand before it immediately smashed violently into the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’.

“Bang!”

A low, deep sound reverberated throughout this area, causing some perspiration to surge out from Xiao Yan’s forehead. Once this vicious woman broke through the seal of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’, the sea of magma on the outside would immediately swarm in. Although she was not afraid of it, he would definitely not be able to hold out for long given his strength.

Ripples surged rapidly as the frightening force smashed onto the flame. An indentation mark was revealed. However, this indentation was like a plasticine. It slowly recovered as Queen Medusa’s hand left. The ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ did indeed possess a never ending energy in this place.

Queen Medusa’s expression finally became extremely solemn when such a powerful blow failed to achieve much. The danger in this perilous place was much greater than she had anticipated.

“This queen, doesn’t believe that she cannot break you!”

A haughtiness flashed across the cold and glamorous moving face as the glow on her fists surged greatly. However, just as she was about to continue unleashing her attacks, the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ suddenly became as smooth as jade. Two faint green glows surfaced as an unusual hissing sound that was filled with anger resounded by Xiao Yan’s and Queen Medusa’s ears.

Xiao Yan’s heart suddenly sank when he saw this change in the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. This stupid woman had finally angered it...

Queen Medusa’s pair of beautiful eyes was filled with killing intent and an iciness as she stared at the two faint lights. She was just about to move when her face suddenly changed. An unusual sleek redness surged over

her white face as threads of white fog seeped out from within her body.

“Dammit... what exactly is this thing? When did it enter my body?” Queen Medusa’s delicate hand held the spot where her heart was located as she clenched her teeth tightly. Dou Qi erupted from her body like a torrent and wrapped around the flames that had suddenly appeared within her body.

Xiao Yan’s gaze doubtfully watched Queen Medusa’s unusually sleek red face. A moment later, he appeared to have understood something and quietly shouted “this is bad” within his heart. The instant that his voice sounded, he could clearly sense that a cluster of extremely hot heart flame had suddenly surfaced within his body...

This cluster of heart flame was extremely dense and large. In just the blink of an eye, it covered every part of Xiao Yan’s body. Immediately, Xiao Yan’s entire body seemed to have been thrown into a furnace. The green flame on the surface of his body appeared to be completely useless. This was because the heat was being spread out from within Xiao Yan’s body...

“This time around... it’s really going to be the end.” Xiao Yan could not help but laugh bitterly as he sensed the intense searing pain within his body that he had difficulty enduring. He could sense the increasingly hot temperature within his body. If this increase was to continue in this manner, everything within his body would gradually melt...

“Ah... damn flame!”

A stern sharp cry suddenly sounded just as Xiao Yan’s mind had gradually become chaotic due to the high temperature in his body. He struggled to open his eyes, forming a small gap. All he saw was that Queen Medusa was currently hugging her head with a bitter expression on her face. Moreover, there was an illusionary human figure and a snake figure around half an inch above her head which were repeatedly being entangled while being grilled by the invisible flame.

“This stupid woman. Did she not know that the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ can do enormous damage to a spirit. Since her spirit has yet to completely occupy her body, that flame will burn her spirit...”

If Queen Medusa's spirit had completely occupied the body of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python', the special burning effect that the 'Fallen Heart Flame' had toward a spirit would naturally be useless against her. Moreover, by relying on her own strength, it would be an extremely difficult task for the 'Fallen Heart Flame' to refine her even if she could not break the lock. Unfortunately, as it so happened, no matter whether it was the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' or Queen Medusa, neither of them had absolute control over the body. Hence, they had really met a true nemesis!

# Chapter 615: Slow Transformation

Under such a refining effort by the 'Fallen Heart Flame', Xiao Yan and Queen Medusa had truly entered an intersection between life and death!

The heart flame that appeared in Xiao Yan's body this time around was even more intense than any previous times. Even when he received the essence of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' to refine his body back then, the strength of that heart flame was at least a couple of times weaker than the heart flame at this moment.

Xiao Yan's face had become somewhat purplish because of the flush redness of his skin. Blisters repeatedly formed on his skin. The frighteningly high temperature that had surged out from his body appeared as though it wanted to incinerate his entire body. It was being grilled under such high temperature. If Xiao Yan himself did not control a 'Heavenly Flame,' to some extent, a resistance to these 'Heavenly Flames' as well as the refinement of his body by the heart flame some time earlier, it was likely that he would have been turned to dust with a 'bang' like his robes earlier the moment the heart flame appeared...

Despite this being the case, the high temperature that had spread to every corner of his body tortured Xiao Yan until he was better off dead than alive. Even he could clearly sense that the blood in his body was boiling. His Qi Paths twitched and his bones were emitting a groan that suggested they were overwhelmed. If the situation continued in such a manner, it was likely that Xiao Yan's body would completely disappear from this world within a short period of time.

"Peng!"

A spark was suddenly erupted from Xiao Yan's black hair following the increasingly intense spreading of the heart flame within his body. Immediately, that spark resulted in the rest of his hair completely turning into dark-black powder, which drifted down, leaving behind a completely bald head like a light bulb.

Xiao Yan could not pay any attention to the incineration of his hair. As

of this moment, he was forcefully enduring the intense pain that drilled his heart. The 'Green Lotus Core Flame' controlled by him was repeatedly expelling the heart flame, which continuously rose within his body. However, these actions were futile. The energy that 'Fallen Heart Flame' possessed within this magma world was something that even Queen Medusa and Yao Lao found extremely troublesome to deal with. Hence, despite Xiao Yan using all his strength and suppressing the flame all over his body, he could only allow the heat of the flame to rise with greater strength. That high temperature also became increasingly frightening...

"This time... it is truly the end."

Xiao Yan's mind was focusing on the uprising furnace-like interior of his body. His mind slowly transmitted a frail feeling. A powerless sleepiness quietly spread over Xiao Yan's heart.

The 'Fallen Heart Flame' did not have any mercy. Hence, it would naturally not give consideration to Xiao Yan's feelings. Instead, it gradually increased the temperature of the flame. It appeared to be able to sense that after a short while, it would be able to swallow the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'...

Queen Medusa at the side was also suffering while Xiao Yan was about to descend into the hopeless state of being about to be refined. Although she could forcefully resist with her powerful strength, the two spirits which were repeatedly entangled above her head indicated that she was resisting an extremely intense pain. Moreover, this pain was spread out from deep within her spirit, and would not be any better than the torture that Xiao Yan was enduring.

The painful expression on Queen Medusa's face suddenly reduced slightly following the flow of time. That human and snake figures within the invisible flame above her head also unknowingly and quietly began to show traces of merging together.

From the looks of the situation, Queen Medusa may have felt the tortuous feeling of having her spirit burned, but the 'Fallen Heart Flame' also seemed to have randomly grilled the spirit of Queen Medusa and the

‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ until they merged together. Although such merger was extremely slow, one could just imagine that she would truly possess the control of that body once she endured until the two spirits merged completely. At that time, the restraining effect of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ would automatically disappear...

Although the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ possessed some intelligence, it clearly was not knowledgeable about such a situation. Therefore, it did not know that it was quietly providing a great help to Queen Medusa when it increased the refinement of the heat flame...

Of course, this was merely the circumstances of Queen Medusa. Compared to her, Xiao Yan seemed to be much more miserable. This was because as the temperature within his body rose, this physical body of his would be slowly melted within this high temperature...

Xiao Yan’s face was bright-red. At a glance, his current imagine appeared to be a person who had been flayed, and looked extremely frightening. With the increase in the temperature of his body, his skin had quietly cracked apart. Boiling fresh blood flowed out and dyed his body in blood.

Xiao Yan’s outer appearance was shocking while the interior of his body was so miserable that one could not bear to look at. His Qi Paths were distorted because they had dried up, appearing like a plastic cylinder which had been burned by a flame. All the various organs in his body were also seriously distorted. If not for the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ going all out to protect them, it was likely that they would have been vaporized by the high temperature.

Of course, these were not the only things that had turned into a miserable state. The sea urchin like Dou Crystal within his vortex had also appeared to have become a sea urchin that was thrown into a pot of boiling oil. It was completely red and repeatedly emitted hot air. Even the Dou Qi that filled its interior had also begun to boil.

The immediate result of this miserable situation both within and outside his body was that Xiao Yan had instantly entered a seriously injured state

where death was imminent. A thread of chaotic consciousness slowly drifted within his body and was in danger of disappearing at any moment. Once his thread of consciousness disappeared, it would be sufficient to pronounce his death. Similarly, it would also pronounce the success of the refinement by the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. The 'Green Lotus Core Flame' within his body would also be completely swallowed...

The 'Fallen Heart Flame' also became somewhat excited as it seemed to sense that it was about to achieve its aim. Two faint green glows firmly stared at Xiao Yan, who had blood scars all over his body. While the green glow soared, the heat that was emitted by the heart flame that flowed all over his body also became increasingly terrifying...

"Teacher... I'm sorry. I... did my best..."

Xiao Yan's consciousness became increasingly faint, causing Xiao Yan to feel as though he was walking toward a world that was filled with darkness. His extremely weak mutterings carried his last consciousness as they quietly disappeared.

The instant that Xiao Yan consciousness walked into the darkness, the green lotus which Xiao Yan was seated cross-legged on suddenly emitted a faint green glow. Finally, it seemed to be unable to endure that high temperature, and began to slowly melt.

The entire green lotus swiftly melted into a large cluster of green-colored liquid as the melting intensified. The liquid spread and immediately covered Xiao Yan's naked body.

"Crack..."

The storage ring on Xiao Yan's finger also began to form some crack lines under such high temperature while the green-colored liquid wrapped around Xiao Yan. A moment later, it finally burst apart and a large pile of various objects suddenly appeared...

The green-colored liquid completely wrapped around all the things that had appeared from the storage ring. It slowly rotated and expelled all the various rubbish like the scrolls. The various things that remained were all things like medicinal ingredients and various types of medicinal pills.

The liquid rotated and all the medicinal ingredients and medicinal pills that Xiao Yan had stored in his storage ring were slowly melting within the green-colored liquid. Finally, numerous medicinal liquids of varying luster appeared before mixing with the green-colored liquid until it became multicolored.

The medicinal ingredients and medicinal pills within the storage ring made up Xiao Yan's entire collection. As of this moment, that green-colored liquid did not seem to have any intelligence as it melted and randomly mix all of them without any due care, much like it was cooking a hodgepodge... There were quite a number of high tier medicinal pills among those medicinal pills. The 'Ground Spirit Pill' which Yao Lao had refined after much difficulty was also among them. However, at this moment, it had also turned into an extremely powerful dark-red liquid that was mixed with all the various colored liquids...

No one knew whether this random chaotic mixture was a poison or a tonic. This was because the entire thing was merely a kind of coincidence. The high temperature had caused the green lotus to melt, followed by the storage ring bursting apart. After which, it mixed everything in a baffling manner. Following which, it mysteriously invaded Xiao Yan's body which had been destroyed until it no longer appeared human.

The multicolored liquid wrapped firmly around Xiao Yan, repeatedly entering his pores and wounds and flowing into Xiao Yan's body...

This liquid that was the merger of a countless number of medicinal pills and medicinal ingredients flowed into Xiao Yan's body. Finally, it flowed thread by thread into every single part of his body. Following their invasion, the Qi Paths, bones, and blood, which were originally about to be completely destroyed, strangely but slowly emitted a faint glow. Moreover, they became just like a little tree which had encountered rain during spring, allowing them to grow tenaciously once again!

The vitality that suddenly rose within Xiao Yan's body once again attracted the attention of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. The green glow flashed immediately and the heart flame which filled the interior of Xiao Yan's body once again erupted with frightening temperature!

The high temperature that suddenly erupted caused his Qi Paths, bones, blood, muscles, etc., which had just regained some life to once again shrivel. However, where that colorful and incomparably powerful liquid continued to flow past, life strangely appeared once again.

The heart flame repeatedly destroyed while the colorful liquid repeatedly healed...

These two things appeared to have engaged in a tug of war in Xiao Yan's body. Each time the heart flame incinerated a Qi Paths, bone, muscle, etc., until it was about to break apart, the strange liquid would immediately invade it until it emitted a sign of life. This process would subsequently be repeated. The cycle appeared to be endless...

The intense pain that this kind of tug of war created was something that basically no one could endure. It was fortunate that at this very moment, Xiao Yan had entered a pseudo-death state due to his imminent death. Hence, he did not feel any of this intensely inhuman pain. Otherwise, even if the strange liquid, which was the mixture of various different things, healed his body, he was likely to be tortured into a lunatic under this kind of intense pain...

Therefore, in a cluster of somewhat invisible-whitish flame deep within the vast magma was a naked man and woman. Each of them were experiencing their own kind of slow but immense transformation...

Such a transformation was extremely slow. No one knew just how long it would last. Perhaps a month, perhaps half a year, perhaps a year, perhaps even longer...

However, there was one point that one did not need to doubt. If they were able to endure this transformation and eventually wake up from it, they would truly be... completely transformed.

The transformation was slowly progressing!

# Chapter 616: Advancing to Dou Wang!

Time flew by as spring left and autumn came. Without anyone realizing it, an entire year had passed since that soul-stirring battle had happened within the Inner Academy.

During this one year, the Inner Academy, which had basically been turned into ruins during the great battle back then, was completely transformed. In the one year, there were old students who had left and more new students that had arrived. The entire Inner Academy was still filled with vitality. Every day, there were a countless number of students who shed perspiration like rain as they worked hard to obtain the glory of the 'Strong Ranking'.

As time flowed past one's fingers, there would occasionally be someone who would throw their gaze toward the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' that stood at the corner of the Inner Academy. They recalled the soul-stirring great battle that was gradually buried deep in their memories. They recalled the young man, who stood like a god in that battle, before eventually quietly falling, and immediately sighed repeatedly. If that person was still alive, it was likely that he would have become the strongest person of the Inner Academy besides First Elder Su Qian...

In this one year, the lute had turned red and the plantain had turned green. During this one year, the speed at which the Inner Academy absorbed new students had become much faster than previous years, perhaps due to their intention to raise the competitiveness. Moreover, due to an increase in the number of people different kinds of small factions had also begun to repeatedly appear like bamboo shoots after the spring rain. The Inner Academy was a place that never lacked geniuses. Hence, within a short one year, there were quite a number of new student factions that stood up and squeezed into the top faction ranking within the Inner Academy.

New students were easily arrogant. This arrogance was bred until it became more intense especially after they had obtained some results. However, no matter how wild and arrogant the new student factions were,

they still did not have the slightest courage to provoke a faction which had currently grown into an enormous being. Although they knew that this faction had at the very most been established within the Inner Academy for two years, its strength was enough to look down upon the entire Inner Academy. Such a reputation was something that caused some of those in the Elder level within the Inner Academy to give it a sidelong glance. However, they did not find it surprising. This was because this faction was called 'Pan's Gate'!

Its founder was the young man who had rescued the entire Inner Academy back then. His name was something that was extremely familiar in everyone's mouth, even now.

Xiao Yan!

While time was flowing by in the lively and wonderful outside world, time appeared to have remained still in the magma world deep underground. Who would bother about the flow of time in this lifeless place?

Of course, there seemed to be an exception...

A large cluster of somewhat white-colored flame was slowly drifting deep within the magma. That cluster of white color was extremely eye catching in this magma world that was filled with a bright redness.

Only by taking a more detailed glance and a closer look would one be able to discover that there appeared to be two faintly naked bodies within the cluster of white-colored flame. However, these two bodies were extremely quiet. Their unmoving manner gave them the appearance of corpses.

There was no concept of time within the magma world. This cluster of flame appeared to be drifting aimlessly until it achieved its aim. Although it sensed that its targets this time around were difficult to chew, it was extremely patient. One year was merely something that passed by like a flick of its finger in its opinion...

This was a completely dark, black space. The darkness was extremely pure and did not have the slightest thread of light. A pure consciousness

appeared to be sleepwalking as it slowly flowed within it. There was no start point and no destination...

No one knew how long it drifted within the darkness. Perhaps it was a year, perhaps decades. No one knew clearly. However, at a certain moment in the far distance, a faint green-colored light suddenly appeared within the black world. Being led by the green light, the drifting chaotic consciousness appeared to be like a catkins as it involuntarily slowly drifted closer...

Only when the chaotic consciousness approached the faint green-colored glow did it realize that the light was a repeatedly flickering green-colored flame.

火焰不大，可却散发着一股浸润灵魂的温暖感觉，而在这种温暖光芒照耀下，混沌的意识，似乎也是在缓慢的回复着清醒，潮水般的记忆急速涌现，令得那道意识，终于是寻回了原本属于自己的东西...

The flame was not very large, but it was emitting a warm feeling that infiltrated the soul. Being shone by that warm light, the chaotic consciousness seemed to be slowly awakening. A torrent of memories swiftly surfaced, causing the consciousness to eventually find something that originally belonged to it...

“I... am still alive?”

An extremely faint muttering voice quietly sounded in this dark-black world. Immediately, the entire dark world suddenly began to ripple intensely. Suddenly, a few threads of light penetrated through the darkness and radiated on that consciousness, causing him to slowly open his eyes.

The young man who was like a corpse that was drifting in the flames suddenly twitched his finger. Immediately, his tightly shut eyes opened in an abrupt fashion!

Everywhere he saw was still the bright redness in his memory and the cluster of flame which he had once feared the most. However, having awoken or perhaps recovered from the endless darkness, he could only lower his head and look at his body, feeling at a loss. His strong fair build

was not the least bit damaged. His fingers were slowly tightened in a somewhat unfamiliar manner. A strength that he had never felt before suddenly surfaced.

The loss slowly disappeared from his black ink-like eyes. The mind of the naked young man moved. Without entering his training state, he was instantly able to clearly see everything within his body.

The Qi Paths which had become distorted and dry before he had lost consciousness were just like numerous crystal clear spacious pipes that were emitting a faint fluorescent light. Although they did not move, he could still clearly sense that the Qi Paths that were currently in his body had a kind of drastic transformation compared to the past regardless of whether it was in terms of toughness or wideness!

Xiao Yan's mind shifted away from his Qi Paths and slowly swept across his entire body. However, he did not find any spot which showed any signs of being weak. Instead, this current body of his was completely different from before he had lost consciousness!

He even thought that it was likely that the fighting strength his physical body could unleash was likely even stronger and more terrifying than his attack after using Dou Qi in the past.

That's right, Dou Qi!

Xiao Yan mind moved abruptly and instantly appeared inside the vortex. His entire being suddenly became dull as he watched the completely empty vortex.

"Where is the Dou Crystal? Where is the Dou Qi?"

His face which had just regained some sleek blood-red color once again turned pale-white. Having once experienced life without Dou Qi, he clearly understood just what kind of frightening blow it was to lose his Dou Qi.

At the moment when Xiao Yan's mind was in a trance because of the strange disappearance of his Dou Qi, a rumbling sound was suddenly emitted from within his body. He was immediately extremely stunned to see a flood-like powerful Dou Qi suddenly surging out from every part of

his body before flowing into the crystal-like Qi Paths. The crystal clear, almost transparent veins appeared to have long since built a dam, allowing the surging Dou Qi to flow and fill them. The veins shrank and expanded, emitting a kind of joyous cry that could not be heard.

“This Dou Qi...”

Xiao Yan was stunned as he focused on the Dou Qi that was surging like floodwater. He clearly felt this Dou Qi appeared to surge out from all over his body. It was different from the past where it would appear only after the rotation of the vortex...

The young man blinked his eyes. Having recovered his alertness, he seemed to faintly understand something. His mind withdrew from his body. He slowly spread his palm before suddenly tightening it!

When he clenched his palm, the space in front of him suddenly fluctuated. A cluster of fiery-red energy surfaced in a strange manner before appearing on his palm.

An unusual glow was flickering in the young man's dark-black eyes. After which, he scattered the energy on his palm and his shoulder shook gently. Dou Qi suddenly surged within his body before eventually following a strange vein route and came surging out from his back.

“Peng!”

Green-colored flame wings suddenly shot out from his back. They had an arc that was over ten feet in radius and appeared just like the wings of a phoenix, looking both gorgeous and stunning.

“Dou Qi transformation into wings...”

Xiao Yan tilted his head slightly. His eyes studied the green-colored flame wings that extended out of his back. He did not use any flying Dou Techniques nor did he use any Secret Technique. Additionally, he did not need to borrow anyone's strength. He had completely relied on himself to display this Dou Qi transformation into wings!

His expression appeared somewhat absent-minded. The green flame shone on his delicate and handsome face, which currently displayed an

additionally maturity. Immediately, an arc quietly spread from the corner of his mouth. He clearly understood what being able to completely rely on his strength to transform Dou Qi into wings meant. It represented that from now on, Xiao Yan had truly stepped into the class of the strong in the continent.

“Teacher, looks like fate has not cut off us teacher and disciple...” Xiao Yan lowered his head and rubbed the dark-black ring on his finger as he softly laughed.

Xiao Yan ‘s gaze drifted over his fingers before his hand suddenly stilled. He immediately muttered uncertainly, “The storage ring... has disappeared?”

Xiao Yan knit his brows and raised his eyes. He immediately swept one round around him only to raise his eyebrow immediately. With a swirl of his palm, he emitted a suction force, causing a pile of things to shoot over and linger around his body.

Xiao Yan’s eyes swept across the Heavy Xuan Ruler, a couple of scrolls and some other things in front of him. He realized that all the medicinal pills and medicinal ingredients within the storage ring seemed to have disappeared.

“Perhaps this is the reason that I was able to recover...” Xiao Yan was deep in thought. This was because he discovered that the green lotus which was under him had also vanished. It seemed like these missing things had something to do with his recovery.

Xiao Yan was temporarily not bothered by all these things. He threw his gaze toward the other side. At that spot, a completely naked bewitching beauty had her eyes shut. The snake and human spirit above her head had already been mostly merged at this moment. It appeared that given a little more time, she would be able to completely merge the spirits and occupy this body.

“Looks like Queen Medusa has gained the upper hand in this merger of spirits. However, they are originally one. The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ was born because of her while she lives because of the ‘Heaven

Swallowing Python.” Xiao Yan felt some hesitation as he watched the extremely smooth merger of Queen Medusa. Finally, he abandoned the thought. This woman might be temperamental but she might be of some help to him in the future. If it was in the past, Xiao Yan would naturally be extremely afraid of her when Yao Lao falls into a slumber. Now, however, with the great increase in his strength, Xiao Yan already possessed the ability to protect himself. Even with Queen Medusa’s strength, it would no longer be as easy to kill him as in the past where killing him was as simple as killing an ant.

This was the gap between a Dou Wang and Dou Ling. In the eyes of a truly strong person, only someone who had reached the Dou Wang class could be called strong.

Everyone below a Dou Wang was an ant. These words were not a lie!

The ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ suddenly quivered just as Xiao Yan was musing. Immediately, a pair of faint green glows slowly surfaced.

A furious hiss immediately sounded when that pair of green glows swept toward the lively Xiao Yan. The glow immediately intensified and a cluster of intense heart flame once again surfaced strangely in Xiao Yan’s heart before engaging in willful destruction.

Xiao Yan’s expression also changed a little the moment that the heart flame surfaced within his body. On the premise that he was nearly killed by the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’, he was currently also extremely afraid of the heart flame. However, while he was hurriedly maneuvering his Dou Qi in preparation to suppress the heart flame, he was stunned to realize that despite the cluster of heart flame going all out to unleash a frightening high temperature, it did not cause Xiao Yan any of the expected destruction or intense pain. Instead... it caused his body to be filled with a warm feeling.

Xiao Yan rubbed his black hair which had regrown. His face was at a loss, “Don’t tell me that I have become accustomed to being burned?”

Yao Lao had already fallen into a slumber so there was naturally no one who could answer him. However, since Xiao Yan had discovered that the

'Fallen Heart Flame' no longer had much effect on him, then... it was time to collect his debt.

Xiao Yan slowly raised his head and stared at the two spots of faint green glows. A dense smile swiftly expanded from the corner of his mouth...

# Chapter 617: Turning the Tables, Capturing the Fallen Heart Flame

The 'Fallen Heart Flame' immediately appeared to have been angered as it emitted a sharp ear-piercing hiss after it seemed to have sensed the killing intent that slowly seeped out from Xiao Yan's body. That drifting faint green glow had become much denser.

Xiao Yan stretched his body lazily and raised his head toward the green glow. He laughed, "What? Aren't you satisfied after burning me for so long?"

The faint green glow became increasingly intense. When the furious hissing appeared once again, a circular light that appeared to be made of jade suddenly surfaced on the surface of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. The jade light flowed slowly, seemingly in possession of a spirit. Not long after the jade light appeared, clusters of invisible flame suddenly surged out from the walls of fire around him before finally wrapping around Xiao Yan from all directions.

Moreover, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' had once again summoned fierce and intense heart flames within Xiao Yan's body aside from the vigorous exterior attack. From the looks of the situation, it clearly wanted to completely finish off this stubborn Xiao Yan through attacks from both within and outside.

"These tactics again..."

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head as he watched the invisible flame that came swarming over. With a flick of his finger, a green-colored flame that was many times more powerful than before suddenly surged out from his body, and blocked all the invisible flames, keeping them away. Xiao Yan was about to direct Dou Qi to wrap around the heart flame within his body, which possessed the greatest destructive strength, when he was stunned to discover that a strange fluorescence had suddenly erupted from his body the moment the heart flame spread. Upon being lit up by the fluorescence, the heart flame, which contained a frighteningly high

temperature, appeared to have met its nemesis as it shrunk swiftly back. Within a short few blinks of an eye, it shrank until it completely disappeared under this fluorescent light...

“This is?” Xiao Yan cried out in surprise and bewilderment. He looked at that strange fluorescent light within his body and felt somewhat at a loss. Where had this thing come from? Even the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ was afraid of it?

After that long deep slumber, Xiao Yan was naturally unaware of all the things that had happened within his body. That strange liquid that was mixed from the green lotus, the countless number of medicinal ingredients and medicinal pills, not only managed to heal and strengthen Xiao Yan’s terribly damaged body during the fight with the heart flame, but its resistance toward the heart flame had also become increasingly greater with the flow of time. In the end, the back and forth fight within the body had basically become a one-sided victory. With the gradual ineffectiveness of the heart flame, that strange medicinal liquid had slowly penetrated every corner of Xiao Yan’s body. The fluorescent light was something that it emitted when it met with an old foe.

The resistance this fluorescent light possessed against the heart flame of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ was something that was obtained during the long, gradual grilling. One could bluntly say that as long as Xiao Yan’s body possessed the protection of this fluorescent light, the burning effect of the heart flame from the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ would be greatly reduced.

This was Xiao Yan’s greatest support when engaging in a counterattack with the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’!

The flame around Xiao Yan’s body burned intensely, unleashing a frightening temperature. The naked, young man within revealed a warm smile. It was difficult to imagine that he had once suffered a fate worse than death while being grilled by this kind of flame before he had awakened...

Xiao Yan finally released the heavy weight within his heart as he sensed the heart flame becoming gradually weaker after being exposed to this

strange fluorescent light. Although he was uncertain about what kind of strange things had happened while he was in his deep slumber, he understood one thing – the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ was something that was no longer frightening to him...

“The river flows thirty years east and thirty years west. Next, let us change position...” Xiao Yan raised his head and parted his mouth to smile toward the faint light glow. Awe seeped out from those white teeth.

“Hiss!”

The sharp hissing sound carried a fury as it sounded. Those two faint green lights suddenly soared, and a large cluster of invisible-whitish flames suddenly surfaced. Following the appearance of this cluster of flame, the bright red magma outside suddenly began to boil. Countless numbers of effervescence churned unceasingly before they quickly exploded apart, emitting a faint wave of fire poison and heat.

“Stubborn fellow...”

Xiao Yan laughed coldly when he saw this intense retaliation by the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. With the movement of a hand seal, the green-colored flame which was lingering around his body suddenly shrank swiftly into it. With the retreat of the green fire, the invisible flame which was surrounding it on the outside came pouncing over like ravenous wolves. Just as they were about to make contact with Xiao Yan’s body, a wave of strange fluorescent light was slowly emitted from Xiao Yan’s body.

The moment the invisible flame came into contact with the fluorescent light, it acted like a mouse which had just seen a cat or like snow meeting boiling oil. It swiftly fled back. Even the whitish flame which the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ had just summoned, also had ripples forming on the surface. Clearly, that wave of fluorescent light was something that they were extremely afraid of.

The strange fluorescent light had relied on its own special compatibility in its long fight with the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ before gradually transforming into a true nemesis of the latter.

Xiao Yan’s eyes blinked gently as he watched the invisible flame swiftly

withdraw. Those dark-black eyes actually had a wisp of strange fluorescent light.

The world that appeared in front of him immediately changed drastically as his eyes were filled with the fluorescent light...

Although the world was still bright red, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' around him had slowly turned transparent. Through this transparent body, a cluster of somewhat whitish palm-sized flame snakes flashed about repeatedly. The eyes of the small snake were filled with an invisible flame. As its pupils rotated, it gave itself an extremely smart appearance. Clearly, this small snake possessed some intelligence.

The small snake also appeared to have discovered Xiao Yan while the latter was watching it. A fierce glow immediately rose in the snake's eyes. Waves of frighteningly invisible flame slowly rose from its body.

"Is this where the essence of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' is located..."

Xiao Yan's eyes blinked slowly as he let out a soft laugh. Although the large cluster of flame around him appeared to be the 'Fallen Heart Flame', he must find the core position if he wanted to break through. That little fire snake was where this core was located.

As long as Xiao Yan captured it, he will have truly captured the 'Fallen Heart Flame'!

Xiao Yan slowly extended his long hand. He lifted the corner of his mouth. An intense green flame wrapped firmly around it. The dense fluorescent light appeared after the wrapping of the flame, covering the green fire with another layer.

Xiao Yan's hand was in the shape of a claw as it curled slightly. He smiled toward the spot where the little fire snake was hidden.

Seeing Xiao Yan's smile, the little fire snake, that could not be seen with the naked eye, felt an ominous feeling. It swung its tail, and its tiny body shuttled in all directions in a lightning-like manner, attempting to use this to hide from Xiao Yan's gaze.

Regardless of how it shuttled around, it was ultimately within the region

of the surrounding flame. It could only control the surrounding flame to leave with it if it truly wanted to flee. If that was the case, however, the intention of swallowing and refining the 'Heavenly Flame' within Xiao Yan's body would go down the drain. This was something impossible for it to do.

Although the 'Fallen Heart Flame' possessed an intelligence, it would still need a long evolution in order to achieve the kind of open-minded thinking that a human had.

"You want to escape?"

Every single action of the small fire snake was clearly visible through the eyes that were filled with a fluorescent light. Xiao Yan smiled, and shook his head. His body remained quiet while a faint silver-colored glow carrying the weak rolling sound of thunder appeared under his feet.

"Chi!"

Xiao Yan's body was quiet for a moment before it suddenly trembled. A substance-like afterimage remained on the spot while his figure appeared in front of the flame wall in a ghost-like manner. His fist that was wrapped by the green flame and the fluorescent light was violently extended, and it drilled into the wall. Immediately he clenched his fist, swiftly flashed and withdrew!

"Hiss!"

Xiao Yan's body was as fast as a ghost. In merely the blink of an eye, it had already rushed back to his original spot and completely merged with the afterimage that had yet to completely disappear. However, this time around, there was a small fire snake which was wildly struggling within his right hand that was wrapped by the fluorescent light. Sharp hissing sounds resounded repeatedly.

The surrounding fire wall had also become much more illusory after the small fire snake had been captured. However, it did not break apart because of this.

Xiao Yan's eyes carried a wild heat as he stared intently at the small,

cream-white fire snake in his hand. A mad joyful expression involuntarily formed on his face. It was really unexpected that not only had he not lost his life in a situation where death was imminent, but he had also accidentally advanced to become a Dou Wang. Now, he had even managed to easily capture the 'Fallen Heart Flame'!

It is said that one sought wealth in a dangerous situation. These words were indeed true!

Although Xiao Yan's hand was isolated by both the green flame and the fluorescent light, the temperature that was emitted from the body of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' still caused Xiao Yan's hand to feel a slight searing pain. This caused Xiao Yan to rejoice somewhat. If he lacked either of the strange fluorescent light and the 'Fallen Heart Flame', it was likely that he would be helpless against this 'Fallen Heart Flame'. After all, a flame that had accumulated from an unknown number of years was really too frightening.

However, Xiao Yan had successfully captured it. Next, were the most important steps, refinement and swallowing...

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the wildly struggling little fire snake within the fluorescent light. Awe gradually surfaced in his eyes. He lowered his head to look at the dark-black ring on his finger as he muttered softly, "Teacher... protect this student to successfully refine it... success and failure will be determined by this!"

Xiao Yan must settle this 'Fallen Heart Flame' if he wanted to escape from this vast magma!

Xiao Yan did not hesitate after his voice sounded. His body sat down, and he crossed his legs while being suspended. The green-colored flame in his hand suddenly soared. Under the wild and violent incineration by the green flame, the small fire snake slowly sank. Finally, it followed Xiao Yan's hand and swarmed into his body.

Xiao Yan's body instantly stiffened after the entry of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'!

The true great battle was finally about to begin. If Xiao Yan was able to

refine and swallow this second 'Heavenly Flame', it was likely that his strength would once again soar. That mysterious 'Flame Mantra' would truly enter a matured stage!

The benefits that Xiao Yan would gain from enduring this would be incomparable!

If Xiao Yan failed to endure it, he might well be completely turned to dust from the remnant waves emitted from the collision of the two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame'. At that time, regardless of whether another miracle would appear, it was likely that he would not be saved!

# Chapter 618: Erode, Refine, Merge!

The 'Fallen Heart Flame' immediately unleashed a frightening temperature the moment it entered Xiao Yan's body. Under this high temperature, Xiao Yan gradually became boiling hot, resulting in a searing pain despite having the protection of the strange fluorescent light and his 'Heavenly Flame'. This essence of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' may not be large, but it took shape only after accumulating for a countless number of years. Therefore, its temperature was extraordinary.

Despite the searing pain once again appearing within his body, it was not to an extent where it was impossible to endure after Xiao Yan had experienced the intense pain which was worse than death the last time. He forcefully stabilized his mind. Surging green flames flowed out from his body and immediately formed a dragnet shape before surrounding the 'Fallen Heart Flame', which was causing destruction within Xiao Yan's body.

At this moment, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' clearly still possessed its own awareness despite having been absorbed into Xiao Yan's body. Hence, it was crafty as it wiggled in all directions after being surrounded by Xiao Yan. The frightening high temperature no longer caused Xiao Yan to feel pain to the point where he no longer wanted to live. However, it was unavoidable that it would cause a frustration to form in a person's heart if this was prolonged.

The capturing continued for nearly ten minutes before Xiao Yan finally ceased this pointless action. Dragging things out in this manner was useless...

"I don't believe that I cannot capture you..."

Xiao Yan's mind slowly became quiet. Threads of dense fluorescent light suddenly seeped out from all over his body before spreading to every single corner of it.

Being shined upon by the fluorescent light, the 'Fallen Heart Flame,' which was moving in a strange manner, finally became slightly slow. Xiao

Yan grabbed this opportunity and used the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' to wrap around it.

The 'Fallen Heart Flame' did not give up despite being surrounded by the green flame. Instead, it began to struggle intensely, like an imprisoned beast. It repeatedly emitted a frightening temperature. Under that increasingly intense temperature, Xiao Yan's originally calm face slowly revealed some pain.

Xiao Yan forcefully endured the searing pain. His mind moved, and the green flame whistled within his body. Finally, it swiftly moved and formed a bright green fireball. The interior of the fireball was the 'Fallen Heart Flame' which was struggling with all its strength in an attempt to escape.

Xiao Yan's mind passed through the flame and carried a sternness as he watched the 'Fallen Heart Flame' within it. His mind turned and the flame rolled. Immediately, waves of green flame came spreading out before finally becoming like numerous tunnels that were inserted into the palm-sized cream-white 'Fallen Heart Flame'.

Following the pouring in of the green flame, that cluster of 'Fallen Heart Flame' began to feel threatened. It immediately rolled intensely. However, due to the various interceptions from the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', it was difficult for it to escape this dragnet-like lock no matter how it leaped and struggled.

At this moment the 'Fallen Heart Flame' already possessed its own will. Hence, Xiao Yan needed to remove its will if he wanted to swallow and refine it. Otherwise, swallowing it forcefully would only incur the resistance between the two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame'. If they were to erupt at that time, the one who would be the most unlucky would be him. This action of Xiao Yan was controlling the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' to completely removing the will of the other flame!

The 'Fallen Heart Flame' was also clear about Xiao Yan's intentions. Hence, it went all out in an attempt to resist it. However, at this moment, it had already become a fish on the chopping board. It was all up to Xiao Yan whether to kill it or cut it up...

Everything in this world was basically a cycle with ups and downs. Earlier, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' could have refined Xiao Yan, but had failed due to various reasons. At this moment, it had become Xiao Yan's turn to call the shots. With his tactic, it was only natural that he did not give it up!

The retaliation of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was not of much use. Following the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' being poured in unceasingly, the resistance of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was gradually reduced. However, this had at the very least transmitted a message to Xiao Yan. The will of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' had already begun to be eroded by the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'...

Xiao Yan could suddenly hear a faint sound from the 'Fallen Heart Flame' during the erosion. Although he was uncertain what the specific wording of this sound was, the taste of begging for mercy was extremely clear.

"Begging for mercy..."

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth was lifted in a dense and cold manner. He laughed coldly, "Back then, why did I not see you showing mercy to us when you were refining teacher and me? If not for my good luck, it is likely that I would have been swallowed by you..."

Xiao Yan's mind moved after the voice sounded. The speed at which the green flames were delivered became increasingly swift and ferocious. Xiao Yan was expressionless, and was not the least bit swayed by the 'Fallen Heart Flame's' attempt to beg for mercy.

The erosion proceeded extremely slowly. However, Xiao Yan was not in a hurry. No matter how one put it, a 'Heavenly Flame' was something that possessed the greatest destructive strength in nature. The time needed for it to agglomerate its own will was a frightening number of years. Attempting to remove this will might not need such a long period of time, but one would be daydreaming if one thought they could achieve it in a short period of time.

Time gradually flowed by under this dull erosion. Xiao Yan also

appeared to be like an old monk meditating, unaffected by anything in the outside world. He gathered his mind and placed all his attention on that cluster of cream-white flame.

Such slow corrosion proceeded for an unknown period of time. Perhaps it was a month, perhaps it was longer. The concept of time had become extremely vague in this place...

The green fire was being cycled without knowing fatigue within the green fireball. That cluster of cream-white flame had also transformed to its current silent and peaceful state compared to its intense struggle and resistance of the past. This clearly indicated that the will of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was gradually disappearing...

"Crack..."

A slight cracking sound suddenly appeared within the quiet body. Following the appearance of this sound, Xiao Yan's quiet mind also leaped violently. He turned toward the 'Fallen Heart Flame' wrapped by the layers of green flame. At this moment the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was suspended within it. The cream-white cluster was warm and peaceful.

The thread of will within the 'Fallen Heart Flame,' which had been originally filled with offensive and destructive properties, had finally disappeared after prolonged corrosion by Xiao Yan. The current 'Fallen Heart Flame' appeared as though it had just been born, and did not possess the slightest offensive properties.

"Have we finally succeeded?"

Xiao Yan's mind awoke from the dormant-like state following the disappearance of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' consciousness. Although he did not exactly count the time, he could faintly feel that the erosion this time around had likely taken quite a bit of time.

"No matter how much time was consumed, it is far better than being trapped here forever..." Xiao Yan comforted himself within his heart. His mind moved, and the green fireball that had wrapped around the 'Fallen Heart Flame' swiftly disappeared. That 'Fallen Heart Flame' was also suspended quietly. Its temperature was lowered such that Xiao Yan no

longer felt a searing pain.

“Next, it should be the refinement...”

Xiao Yan smiled as he watched the cluster of ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. His mind controlled the cluster of ‘Fallen Heart Flame’, and slowly moved it into his veins. After which, he began to move it along the route of the ‘Flame Mantra’ and quietly circulated it...

The refinement of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ without its consciousness was much easier than Xiao Yan had expected. Perhaps this was due to his body having been burned by the damn flame for such a long period of time, resulting in a tacit understanding that had faintly formed between the two. In any case, the refinement of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ this time around was smoother than when Xiao Yan had first refined the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’.

Of course, despite the process being smooth, there was a similarity with the erosion of the will of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. That similarity was that it was still slow... slow to the point that it gave one the feeling of being about to collapse.

Fortunately, no matter how frighteningly slow the process was, it would at the very least, ultimately reach its destination.

Xiao Yan once again woke up from his dormant state the moment the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ was successfully refined. His mind was watching the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ flowing within his Qi Paths. A joy slowly climbed from deep within his heart before eventually causing a happy smile to appear on the young man’s face.

Xiao Yan was in no hurry to control its merger with the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ after having refined the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. He clearly understood that this step was the most important one in the practice of the ‘Flame Mantra,’ and also the most dangerous step.

Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes and observed the whitish flame which was wrapped around him. He let out a soft laugh. Currently, the flame which originally had a great offensive strength against him had already become like his arm. Commanding it was extremely easy with no feeling

of sluggishness.

Xiao Yan's gaze turned toward the bewitching beauty within the flame. The latter was still in a state where spirits were being merged. However, from looking at the increasingly substance-like spirit above her head, it was clear that she had already entered the final stage. Perhaps in only a short time, this Queen Medusa will have complete control over that body. At that time, she would truly make a complete transformation and turn into an extremely powerful person of the Dou Zong class!

Xiao Yan's eyes carelessly swept over Queen Medusa's lovely, naked body before quickly shifting it away. This woman was entirely filled with a kind of unusual allure toward men. Even without moving, as was currently the case, she still caused a nefarious flame to leap within one's heart.

Xiao Yan finally controlled his mind after being quiet for a period of time. His expression was solemn as he extended his heart deep into his body, and began to attempt this last extremely critical step.

# Chapter 619: Successful Merger!

The merger of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' and the 'Fallen Heart Flame'.

If he managed to successfully merge these two different kinds of flame, Xiao Yan's strength would not only greatly soar, but the 'Flame Mantra' would also evolve by leaps and bounds. At that time, Xiao Yan's fighting strength would once again make a great advancement.

However, if he were to fail, his fate would be even more miserable than the last time. It would not be overboard to describe it as beyond redemption.

The 'Flame Mantra' was able to gift people with the ability to control a few kinds of 'Heavenly Flame'. Someone who had obtained such ability would also have to pay a price that was many times higher than an ordinary person...

The cream-colored flame was flowing fiercely in a torrent-like manner within his crystal clear Qi Paths. After having been completely refined by Xiao Yan, it appeared like an obedient baby that did not have the slightest resistance to his commands. It was totally void of the untamed manner it had possessed before.

Xiao Yan's mind controlled the 'Fallen Heart Flame' as it followed his Qi Paths and flowed about. After this continued for a couple of circulations, it slowly roamed about his Qi Paths before being pouring into the interior of the vortex which had become completely empty.

Xiao Yan slowly exhaled when the 'Fallen Heart Flame' completely entered the vortex. His mind moved, and he could see green-colored flames immediately flowing out in all directions from the 'Acceptance Spirit' in the middle, which was used to store the 'Heavenly Flame'.

Following the appearance of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', the originally quiet 'Fallen Heart Flame' had begun to seethe. The 'Heavenly Flames' possessed an extremely great destructive strength. If two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' were to collide together, it would be the case of

swallowing the other party or being swallowed by it. There was no other choice. Hence, the moment the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' appeared, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was still able to rely on its instincts to be prepared to create trouble despite it being suppressed by Xiao Yan.

Of course, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was not the only one ready to cause trouble. The usually obedient 'Green Lotus Core Flame' which had saved Xiao Yan in countless life and death situations had also begun to roll and leap around. Its instincts drove it to possess the desire to swallow the 'Heavenly Flame' in front of it. In that way, it would become even stronger.

"No wonder it is always said that an alchemist could at the very most control one kind of 'Heavenly Flame'. It is unexpected that their resistance toward each other is actually so intense..." Xiao Yan helplessly spoke in his heart as he suppressed the rolling and leaping of both the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' and the 'Fallen Heart Flame'.

"If I did not possess the 'Flame Mantra', attempting to merge them together would be the equivalent of leading a flame to incinerate oneself." Xiao Yan repeated. He had just moved his mind when a powerful Dou Qi swiftly surfaced from his body. It completed a cycle while following the route of the 'Flame Mantra' before being carefully poured into the vortex. It became like a boundary line that stood between the 'Fallen Heart Flame' and the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'.

"Next... let's... begin the merger."

Xiao Yan's mind ruthlessly inhaled a breath of non-existent air. He finally cease hesitating. An order was issued from his mind!

Following the issue of the order, the suppression on the two kinds of 'Heavenly Flames' also disappeared. Having lost the suppression, they began to fight like ferocious tigers that had just descended a mountain. They both carried a roar that caused one to be stricken with terror and come rumbling violently down. Finally, the two kinds of flames violently collided together.

"Bang!"

Although there was a layer of 'Flame Mantra' Dou Qi blocking the two

flames, the collision still emitted a sound that was low, deep, loud and clear. A great heat quietly rose from the vortex.

Xiao Yan carefully controlled the 'Flame Mantra' Dou Qi as he attempted to isolate the two kinds of flames. Despite this, however, the two 'Heavenly Flames,' which had approached each other, also began to churn repeatedly like tidal waves. Finally, they appeared to be contesting with each other, repeatedly unleashing high temperatures. That manner was as though they wanted to defeat the other party.

Waves of 'Flame Mantra' Dou Qi repeatedly flowed and circulated within Xiao Yan's Qi Paths before pouring into the vortex. After which, they intruded into the interior of the two 'Heavenly Flames'. Following the addition of the 'Flame Mantra' Dou Qi which possessed an unusual strength, the originally explosive-like 'Heavenly Flames,' which exploded upon contact earlier, gradually became much quieter.

Xiao Yan sighed in relief upon observing the strong effect of the 'Flame Mantra.' Having seen the frightening repulsion between the two 'Heavenly Flames' earlier, he really did not dare to say that they would just merge together. Fortunately, the 'Flame Mantra' was indeed worthy of being a mysterious Qi Method that even Yao Lao had continuous praise for. The effect of reconciling the 'Heavenly Flames' was indeed extraordinary.

Xiao Yan's mind focused intently on the movement of the two kinds of 'Heavenly Flames' within the vortex. Only after seeing that they had become much calmer did Xiao Yan cautiously remove a Dou Qi layer between them.

The thin Dou Qi layer disappeared. A green and white-colored flame finally made contact without any gap between them...

There was not the slightest unusual movement amid the calmness when they made contact. However, just as Xiao Yan was about to sigh in relief, a low, deep explosive sound suddenly appeared within the vortex, causing his heart to leap violently.

Xiao Yan's mind shifted toward the interior of the vortex in a lightning-like manner. The chaotic situation that was similarly to a volcano erupting

deep within the vast ocean caused all the pores in Xiao Yan's body to shrink tightly.

"Dammit... can these 'Heavenly Flames' actually merge together?" Xiao Yan could not resist cursing as he watched the two different colored chaotic fire clusters that were repeatedly emitting slight explosions. The meeting of these two things was similar to gunpowder meeting a spark. The most direct consequence was that it resulted in an intense explosion. However, these two things were mixed with quite a great amount of 'Flame Mantra' Dou Qi by Xiao Yan. Otherwise, the explosion might well have been even more violent.

However, from the looks of the situation, it appeared that the explosion was also becoming increasingly intense. Not long later, the violent explosion might well blast apart the interior of Xiao Yan's body until it turned into fragments.

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and shook his head as he sensed the waves of intense twitching pain that was emitted from the vortex. His mind moved and powerful Dou Qi surged out from all over his body like floodwater. Finally, it followed the route of the 'Flame Mantra' as it began to circulate before being poured unceasingly into the vortex. They were subsequently added into the two colored fire clusters whose explosion sounds were becoming louder and clearer.

This action by Xiao Yan was the only solution that he could think of. Since the two kinds of 'Heavenly Flames' had great difficulty merging, he would simply go all out and pour the 'Flame Mantra' Dou Qi to reconcile them until they could co-exist.

Although this was a last minute action by Xiao Yan, its effect was quite good. As an unceasing amount of 'Flame Mantra' Dou Qi was poured in, the explosion sounds within the vortex gradually weakened. Although these two flames still refused to accept each other, any attack that was erupted for the time being would at least not be too ferocious.

Xiao Yan's tensed mind finally relaxed upon seeing that this method was effective. He knew that it was definitely not going to be a fast thing for the

two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' to merge perfectly. It was already quite a great improvement to prevent them from erupting into conflict the moment they met.

The 'Flame Mantra' Dou Qi was still continuously poured into the vortex. Xiao Yan also understood this was a prolonged battle. Hence, he entered his training mode in an extremely fast manner. After which, he relied on absorbing the exterior energy to provide sufficient Dou Qi that was needed to maintain the peace between the 'Heavenly Flame'.

If it was the degree of energy absorption that Xiao Yan possessed in the past, it would naturally be unable to meet such a requirement. Fortunately, however, Xiao Yan had currently advanced to the Dou Wang class. His Dou Qi absorption was something that could no longer be compared to the past. Therefore, he was able to maintain this large consumption.

This was a long battle. Xiao Yan would definitely win if he could endure. The precondition, however, was that no drastic or unexpected events occur...

The concept of time was similarly blurry when one was in the training mode. Thus, Xiao Yan did not know how much time had passed. He could only faintly sense from the two mixing 'Heavenly Flames' in his vortex that this merger had used up quite a lot of time...

Of course, it might have consumed quite a lot of time, but the result that Xiao Yan reaped was also quite great. The green and white flames in the vortex, which could not tolerate each other, had already become like two slimes that were being mixed together. Although they had not merged, the traces of merger had, at the very least, appeared...

Xiao Yan's body remained in training mode. His mind, however, had once again entered that hibernation mode, allowing time to fly by. The Dou Qi in his body was continuously following the 'Flame Mantra' route before being habitually poured into the vortex, adding a little help for the merger of the 'Heavenly Flame'.

A long period of time quietly flowed by. At a certain moment, Xiao Yan's asleep mind suddenly trembled. He immediately recovered his

consciousness. The first thing he did was to force his mind to appear within the vortex. He glanced at it before a wild joy filled his heart.

The green and white clusters of flame were completely intertwined within the vortex. A wisp of green-white flame that had been entangled for an unknown period of time by the corner of the flame suddenly emitted a faint glow. The two colored flames slowly moved amid the faint glow before gradually mixing together. At this moment, the green and white colors had completely disappeared. Replacing it was a small cluster of emerald-like dark-green flame...

“Has it begun to merge...”

Xiao Yan watched that wisp of emerald-like dark-green flame with wild joy. His heart began to leap intensely at this moment. Although this was an extremely small wisp of flame, it represented a good start. Moreover, it also meant that he did not take a wrong path.

A slight smile involuntarily drew on Xiao Yan’s face as he watched the cluster of green-white flame that was exceptionally dark-green in color. Everything had entered into a formal state with some shock, but without any fear. Subsequently, he had to quietly wait for the two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flame’ to be completely merged together...

Although this kind of merger was extremely slow, a corner of the dawn of success had already been revealed. Xiao Yan was also able to put down an uneasy, large stone within his heart.

Perhaps, when that green-white color was completely transformed into an emerald-like dark-green color, it would be the moment when the ‘Flame Mantra’ Qi Method entered its mature state. At that time, Xiao Yan’s fighting strength would also greatly soar!

Moreover, the moment the two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flame’ completely merged together, a kind of new flame would replace the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ and the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’!

Of course, the type of flame that replaced them would naturally possess the special effects of both kinds of ‘Heavenly Flame’. Perhaps, it would even be more powerful!

Xiao Yan's heart was filled with an anticipation for this new flame that had yet to be birthed.

# Chapter 620: The Sequelae From The Merger Of The Heavenly Flames

Jia Ma Empire, the west part of the capital.

An extremely large manor was sitting at this spot. The style of the manor was extremely similar to the position that the Primer clan held in the Jia Ma Empire.

A lady wearing a pale-purple robe was standing elegantly by the side of a quiet and clear lake deep within the manor. Although one could not see the lady's face, just this back was sufficient to daydream about her elegance.

The sapphire-like eyes of the lady were a little absent-minded as she watched the sparkling light ripples on the lake. Her beautiful melon-shaped face was enchanting and moving. That lovely body, which was wrapped by a luxurious purple robe, protruded and concave in perfect proportions, emitting a matured and juicy allure.

"Ke ke, are you thinking of that little fellow?"

A teasing old voice suddenly sounded from behind her. The lady was startled as she hurriedly turned her head around. A faint flush surfaced on her face when she saw the smiling old man walking over. She spoke in a lovely annoyed voice, "Old Hai, you are teasing Ya Fei again."

Hearing her address herself, this person was surprisingly Ya Fei who possessed quite a deep relationship with Xiao Yan back then. Turning one's gaze to the blue-robed old man, his appearance was that of the battle companion of Xiao Yan back then. Ice Emperor, Hai Bodong!

Hai Bodong smiled and walked closer. His shriveled hand patted Ya Fei's shoulders before he immediately stood with his hands behind his back. His eyes studied the middle of the lake. He was silent for a moment before sighing, "I wonder how that little fellow has been. It has almost been three years since he left the Jia Ma Empire."

Ya Fei nodded her head lightly before she smiled and said, "That fellow

may appear to be harmless to both humans and animals, but he is actually extremely crafty. Old Hai need not be overly worried.”

“Ke ke, I am not worried. I think that fellow will live a more exciting life than anyone else.” Hai Bodong smiled. His expression immediately sank, “However, that fellow appears to hold his clan in great regard. Now, the Xiao clan has been chased by the Misty Cloud Sect in the Jia Ma Empire until they were like dogs that have lost their homes. If we had not quietly helped them, it is likely that all the Xiao clan members in the Jia Ma Empire would have completely disappeared.”

“Back then, Xiao Li said that he wanted to go to the Jia Nan Academy to find Xiao Yan. I wonder if he successfully arrived. Given Xiao Yan’s character, it is likely that he would immediately rush back if he knew that such a great disaster had befallen the clan. Seeing the current peace, don’t tell me that Xiao Li did not convey the news?” Hai Bodong muttered.

“Ugh, it is better if he doesn’t return. Although he has quite a good training talent, it is really too difficult if he wants to contend with a large being like the Misty Cloud Sect... I hope that he would be able to endure longer. He is still young and has lots of time to take revenge.” Ya Fei narrowed her bewitching peach blossom eyes as she laughed gently.

Ya Fei had already gained actual power over the control of the Primer clan during these years. Other than Hai Bodong who was in front of her, it was likely that there was no longer anyone in the clan who had a reputation that could exceed hers. She might have the support of Hai Bodong, but being able to muddle on to such a level despite being a lady meant that her ability was something that need not be doubted. The information network that she had developed over these years basically spread over the entire Jia Ma Empire. She was even clearly aware of every single action of the Misty Cloud Sect. How could such a woman be an ordinary person? Although she was not very well versed in terms of Dou Qi, but who said that someone without Dou Qi could not stand above others?

“You also know that he is still young and being impulsive is the special right of the young.” Hai Bodong smiled before suddenly speaking, “I have

heard that you have arranged for some of the members of the Xiao clan to be in the capital? This place is so close to the Misty Cloud Sect and may not be suitable.”

Ya Fei’s white-jade-like delicate hand randomly plucked a flower that extended out from the tree beside her. She smiled slightly and said, “The Misty Cloud Sect is searching with great intensity in the other cities. The capital is the territory where the imperial family has deep roots. Even if it is the Misty Cloud Sect, they would not dare to be overly presumptuous. Adding some of the tactics of our Primer clan, the Misty Cloud Sect would not be aware of their trace.”

“Its up to you. You are much better at these matters than us Elders.” Hai Bodong shook his head. His gaze immediately turned toward the eastern sky. A towering mountain peak that penetrated through the clouds was partially visible at that spot. He knit his brows tightly, “I really don’t know just what exactly Yun Shan, that old man who won’t die, is doing. Even if he had some grudge with Xiao Yan, he doesn’t need to actually attack the Xiao Clan, right? What other use does his actions have other than angering Xiao Yan?”

Ya Fei knit her brows tightly and played with the flower in her hand. She muttered, “According to my investigation, I discovered that the Misty Cloud Sect appears to be searching for something treasured by the members of the Xiao clan...”

“What are they looking for? Don’t tell me that the Xiao Yan is still in possession of something that could attract them?” Hai Bodong frowned and asked.

Ya Fei’s eyes flickered. A moment later, she shook her head slightly and softly laughed, “I am also not very certain. Perhaps it is a misconception.”

“Alas, the Misty Cloud Sect is now becoming stranger and stranger. It is rumored that Yun Yun has already been temporarily stripped of her position of sect leader. Currently, the Misty Cloud Sect is within the control of Yun Shan. This old man who won’t die seems to be a little different from before...” Hai Bodong sighed again as he voiced his

thoughts.

“There has indeed been some changes... their activity is currently becoming increasingly larger. Even the Imperial Family has become somewhat anxious. They have dispatched quite a number of spies to monitor the Misty Cloud Sect. This is completely different from the way the Misty Cloud Sect handled things in the past.” Ya Fei also nodded her head. Although the Misty Cloud Sect was powerful in the past, they did not bother with ordinary things. Now, however...

“I don’t know what exactly they are doing... hee hee, just wait. I want to see how much longer they can be arrogant for. I have extremely great confidence in that little fellow. The next time he steps into this empire might well be the time when the Misty Cloud Sect is turned upside down.” Hai Bodong raised his head as looked at the towering mountain peak which penetrated the cloud as he laughed in a strange manner.

“Moreover, I have a premonition that this day is not far away...”

...

The bright-red world was still lifeless. This place was as quiet as a dead zone with the exception of the sound emitted from the flow of magma.

If one’s gaze penetrated through the magma, one would find a cluster of eye-catching white-colored flame drifting slowly in its vast depths. Two naked bodies were vaguely visible within it.

The merger of the two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flames’ was extremely slow and took a long time. However, regardless of how slow one progressed, there would be the moment that one would ultimately reach the end. At that time, flowers would open with the warmth of spring, and one would break through their cocoon and transform into a butterfly.

Xiao Yan mind was drifting dreamily. At a certain moment, a slight unusual sound was suddenly but quietly emitted from the vortex. When this unusual sound appeared, the flow of Dou Qi within his body suddenly came to a stop!

Xiao Yan slowly recovered his consciousness. He initially observed his

surroundings while being at a loss before his mind immediately moved and the situation within the vortex appeared in his sight.

His mind had just entered the vortex when a warm, dark-green glow shot over. His mind swept across it and a joy that seeped deep into his bones slowly climbed from Xiao Yan's heart...

The originally green-white flame mixture within the interior of the Dou Qi completely disappeared. Replacing it was a kind of emerald-like dark-green flame. This cluster of flame was flowing slowly. At a glance, it appeared to be a kind of emerald-colored magma. However, this magma appeared somewhat tasty, just like nectar.

“Have I succeeded...”

Xiao Yan's heart was startled as he studied the cluster of dark-green flame. It was a long while later before he finally inhaled a deep breath of air. His heart immediately emitted a silent wild roar. How much had he given up for this day? How long had he waited for it?

A sleek redness also surfaced within Xiao Yan's eyes on top of the loud roar within his heart. Moisture slowly invaded his eyes. Back then, he had been chased out of the Jia Ma Empire like a dog, that had lost its home, before undergoing a long journey to the Jia Nan Academy. Even at that moment when he had heard that his clan was destroyed, he still clenched his teeth and swallowed that humiliation within his heart. Was that endurance not because of this day?

The roar within Xiao Yan's heart slowly disappeared. His agitated emotions gradually calmed down. He controlled the cluster of dark-green flame with his mind before pouring it into that small 'Acceptance Spirit' within the vortex.

Xiao Yan only sighed in relief after the dark-green flame was completely poured into the 'Acceptance Spirit'. This second kind of flame was finally successfully refined by him!

Xiao Yan's heart was filled with a joy that was difficult to describe. However, just as he was about to withdraw from his training mode, his expression suddenly changed. He could clearly sense that the 'Acceptance

Spirit,' which the dark-green flame had just been poured into, abruptly began to tremble violently.

“Just what is happening? Don’t tell me it is the sequelae from the merging of the ‘Heavenly Flame’? Back then, teacher had indeed mentioned that there might be some problem appearing after the merger of the ‘Heavenly Flame’. Don’t say...”

Xiao Yan’s heart appeared to be tightly seized by a large invisible hand. He did not dare to imagine just what like of craziness he would descend into if some unexpected turn of events were to happen at this last minute... Just as his heart became extremely uncertain, the leaping of the ‘Acceptance Spirit’ suddenly halted. However, he could clearly sense that an unusual nefarious flame had suddenly spread out from within the ‘Acceptance Spirit’ before finally transmitting over to every single part of Xiao Yan’s body in an instant.

This unusual nefarious flame did not have any special harm to Xiao Yan. However, it caused Xiao Yan’s entire body to feel somewhat hot. This kind of situation was similar to when consuming a certain kind of potent aphrodisiac.

“Dammit... that little problem is actually this thing?”

Xiao Yan cursed softly. Dou Qi flowed wildly within his body in an attempt to suppress that nefarious flame. However, this flame was quite stubborn. The more Xiao Yan suppressed it the greater its retaliation. Hence, after only a couple of exchanges, Xiao Yan’s eyes were actually completely occupied by a bright redness.

“I cannot control it any longer...”

Xiao Yan was panting like a bull as he stood up. His reasoning had finally been suppressed by his desire. Those bright red eyes swept in all directions before suddenly stopping on a naked lovely bewitching beauty not far away.

Xiao Yan’s throat rolled. His face appeared to be burning as he slowly walked toward Queen Medusa who had her eyes tightly shut.

If Xiao Yan was awake, he would never dare to perform such profanity toward that temperamental Queen Medusa even if he doubled his courage. At this moment, however, his mind was occupied by the nefarious flame and had already completely forgotten the reason for him to be afraid.

Xiao Yan took slow steps as he approached Queen Medusa. The latter appeared to have faintly sensed something. The spirit above her head had completely become calm. She suddenly opened her eyes, shooting a gaze that was filled with a dense cold killing intent toward Xiao Yan.

“Are you courting death?”

The spirit swiftly entered her body, and Queen Medusa’s tightly shut eyes were instantly opened. Those bewitching long pupils were filled with killing intent as she watched the approaching Xiao Yan while she cried out sternly.

Having lost his sense of reasoning at this moment, Xiao Yan simply let Queen Medusa’s cry that was filled with killing intent fill his ears without listening. His face was flushed red, and his breathing was as heavy as a bull.

“Chi!”

Queen Medusa coldly watched Xiao Yan come increasingly closer. The next moment, a killing intent finally flashed passed her eyes. With a wave of her delicate hand, an energy agglomerated and formed a red-colored dress on the surface of her body. After which a seven-colored pillar shot out from her finger and heavily smashed into Xiao Yan’s chest. In the end, however, it merely caused his body to become sluggish for a moment.

“Dammit...” Queen Medusa was initially stunned as she watched the attack which had suddenly become much weaker. She immediately came to an understanding. Due to her spirit having just completed the merger, she was unable to unleash even half of her previous strength. Hence, the current Queen Medusa was at her weakest moment!

“Roar!”

A low and deep roar was erupted from Xiao Yan's throat. Those bright-red eyes carried a flame of desire as they stared at Queen Medusa's lovely body, which was enough to cause any man to go crazy. He waved his hand and a circle of dark-green flame flashed, firmly tying Queen Medusa's hands.

At this moment, Xiao Yan no longer had any intention of treating this lady nicely. He even completely ignored how Queen Medusa's jade-like wrists were being burned by the dark-green flame until a red circle was formed.

Xiao Yan stood in front of Queen Medusa. His expression was flush red as he looked down at the queen who had never gave him a nice look, from above.

"Xiao Yan, if you dare to do that thing to me, this Queen will definitely tear your body into ten thousand pieces once my strength recovers!"

Even at this moment, the arrogant Queen Medusa did not show the slightest softness. Her silver teeth were clenched while her tone was dense and cold.

The current Xiao Yan naturally paid no heed to such a threat by Queen Medusa. His throat once again emitted a low, deep, wild roar. Immediately, the bright redness within his eyes grew wilder. With a leap, his body became just like a savage, violent tiger that pressed Queen Medusa's lovely body under him. His hand danced around wildly as the clear sound of a dress being torn appeared in this magma world.

An intimate act was being quietly performed within the blood-colored magma. Unfortunately, no one had the luck to witness it...

# Chapter 621: Breaking the Seal

This was an extremely dense forest. Although there was occasionally some light that seeped through the gaps and scattered into it, it was still difficult to expel that darkness within the forest. It was likely that the pressuring atmosphere would be difficult for one to endure when one walked in such a place.

A wave of hurried footsteps suddenly sounded within the quiet forest. Immediately, a large group of indistinct black figures appeared at a corner of the forest. These black figures walked extremely quietly and were clearly extremely experienced old hands. While they walked, their gazes were cautiously sweeping over the surrounding dark corners. In this 'Black-Corner Region' one must always place the word 'cautious' in one's heart at all times, regardless of one's identity. Something like a boat sinking in a drain happened almost everyday. If one wanted to live longer, one must always maintain a cautious state.

TL: boat sinking in a drain – something that is impossible or not suppose to happen

“Crack!”

A dried branch on the ground where a human figure landed suddenly cracked as they walked. The clear sound reverberated throughout the quiet forest, and was exceptionally ear-piercing.

The walking figures suddenly stopped because of this sound. Their leader was a black-robed person. His gaze was dark and stern as it cut his companion who had stepped on the broken twig. He waved his hand and was about to instruct the group to continue advancing when his ear suddenly picked up the sound of some leaves moving. His face immediately changed as he cried out sternly, “Be careful!”

“Xiu! Xiu!”

His cry had just sounded when arrows suddenly came shooting out from the dark-black forest in all directions, attacking this group until its formation was in complete disarray. The surrounding trees suddenly

shook after the rain of arrows. Immediately, numerous similar black-robed people rushed out in a lightning-like manner. Finally, they raised their shiny blades. They did not say any nonsense. Only a dark, cold killing intent which filled the dense forest was present.

“Be careful, fight them!”

The heart of that black-robed leader immediately sank upon seeing the black figure unit that had attacked without the slightest noise, and whose bodies were filled with an extremely dense bloody scent. At a glance, one could tell that such a well-trained unit frequently muddled along on the edge of a blade and was extremely experienced. Moreover, from the looks of the speed in which these black figures rushed, it was clear that their strength was quite great. Just which faction did such a powerful strength belong to?

These black figures were extremely quick and agile. In only a couple of flashes, they directly pierced the formation of those black-robed figures like a blade. The blade contained a cold glint, and a low, deep sound would appear each time it cut past some flesh. This sound caused the leader's heart to sink further.

The leader drew his weapon from his waist and forced back a couple of black figures which had shot over silently. However, the price he paid was a cut between his thumb and his forefinger, resulting in his hand being filled with blood. Taking the opportunity to withdraw, his gaze swept over his unit which had suffered serious deaths and injuries within less than a minute. Shock immediately flashed across his eyes as he put up a brave front and cried out, “You even dare to touch someone from the ‘Black Alliance’. Are you seeking death?”

In the face of his cry, the reply he received was a couple of blades that contained traces of blood.

This black-robed leader's body rolled on the ground in a miserable manner. His feet stomped on the ground and he remained close to the ground as he shot out of the forest in an explosive manner. That speed was extremely quick. Even those black figures behind him could not catch

up.

The instant the black-robed figure was about to flee from the forest, a bloody wind suddenly sounded beside his ear. Immediately, his back sunk as a ferocious force came diving down, and peremptorily smashed the former violently to the ground.

“Grug!”

The black-robed person could not resist spitting out a mouthful of fresh blood after receiving such a heavy blow. He turned his head with much difficulty only to see a human figure whose entire body was wrapped in a large, black robe.

“The ‘Black Alliance’ will not let all of you off!” The black-robed person spat out a mouthful of blood and spoke in a dark manner.

“The number of people from the ‘Black Alliance’ who have died in my hands is already in the triple digits.” A voice that contained a dense bloody scent was slowly emitted from the black robes. Immediately, he gently pressed his feet down, and a force surged out before smashing the back of the black-robed man, killing him with one strike.

While the black figure kicked the dead black-robed man aside, another black figure swiftly leaped forward before searching the body of the black-robed man. A moment later, he took out a letter from the former’s chest pocket and respectfully handed it to the mysterious person beside him whose entire body contained a dense bloody scent.

The black-robed mysterious man tore opened the envelope and slowly opened the letter. A moment later, he laughed in a dark, cold voice, “It is really unexpected that even the ‘Wild Lion Gang’ has joined the ‘Black Alliance’. Have their arms already been extended to this place?”

“During these two years, experts from the Jia Nan Academy have repeatedly come out to search and find trouble with those experts who participated in the ambush of the Jia Nan Academy back then. In order to fight the Jia Nan Academy, that Han Feng founded the ‘Black Alliance’. Now, the strength of the ‘Black Alliance’ is growing even larger. Even the Jia Nan Academy is unable to do anything to it. From the actions of Han

Feng, I think that he intends to extend the 'Black Alliance' to the entire 'Black-Corner Region'. Chief, they will discover that we are repeatedly finding trouble with them. From the looks of it, we should change our location again." A black figure flashed and appeared. His voice was somewhat hoarse when he spoke.

"Yes." The black-robed man whose entire body was filled with a bloody aura acknowledged what he said with a faint sound. He waved his hand and immediately walked toward the exit of the forest. The black figures within the darkness flashed behind him. At a rough glance, there seemed to be over a hundred people. These people were all quietly following behind the black-robed man a short distance behind him. Their footsteps seemed as though it came from a single individual.

The faint sunlight scattered down upon exiting the dark forest. The black-robed man raised his head and revealed a young familiar face filled with a ruthlessness. This person was shockingly Xiao Yan's second older brother, Xiao Li.

At this moment, the entirety of Xiao Li's body was filled with an extremely dense blood scent. His expression was indifferent and his eyes were void of emotion. Most importantly, the aura that was spread from his body was actually comparable to an expert Dou Wang. It was difficult to imagine that he was actually able to leap from the Da Dou Shi class to the Dou Wang class within two short years. However, if one were to carefully observe him, one would discover that there was actually a thread of death aura on Xiao Li's forehead. It was somewhat strange that such a death aura had appeared on the face of such a young man. Perhaps, this might have some relation toward the swift rise in his strength.

"All of you should return back first."

Xiao Li spoke faintly. Those hundred plus black figures behind him immediately nodded respectfully. Their bodies slowly withdrew into the darkness. Immediately, they completely vanished amid a slight sound.

The indifference on Xiao Li's face finally relaxed slowly after everyone had completely disappeared. He turned his head slightly and his gaze

looked toward the distant northern direction. That direction was where the Jia Nan Academy was located. It was there that Xiao Yan had turned into ashes.

Xiao Li felt a faint pain within his chest as he recalled the bright smiling brother of his. Before he came to the 'Black-Corner Region' his big brother Xiao Ding had said he can die but his third brother cannot! Only with the latter would the Xiao clan be saved. Now, however...

A beast-like fierce glow flashed within Xiao Li's eyes. A moment later, a savage smile was lifted from the corner of his mouth as he spoke in a dense low voice, "Xiao-yan-zi, rest assured that second brother will not let off those fellows who caused you to die. I will kill all of them during my residual life!"

Dense laughter slowly reverberated. Xiao Li's body, however, quietly disappeared like a ghost.

...

The deadly quiet magma world was still completely bright-red. The hot temperature caused this place to be a completely lifeless one!

"Bang!"

The magma in this dead and silent world suddenly split apart. A wave of white fog rose and two figures rushed out explosively from within.

One of the figures was at the front while the other was at the back. At a glance, it looked like the one at the back was chasing after the one in front with the intention to kill. This was because numerous extremely powerful colorful energy pillars that carried extremely sharp killing intent shot out explosively during the chase. The human figure at the front was clearly extremely afraid of these colorful energy pillars. Even though his body was in an extremely miserable state, he still narrowly dodged them one after another.

The seven-colored energy that missed were shot into the magma world. Immediately, an earth-shaking explosion sound shot over the vast magma.

"Are you done or not? I am not arguing with you because you are a

woman. Don't blame me for turning against you if you continue to pester me!" That young man wearing a black robe narrowly dodged a sharp attack once again as he cried out furiously.

The bewitching beauty completely ignored the furious cries of this young man. Her cold and glamorous pretty face was filled with frost. Her eyes were filled with killing intent. From her manner, it appeared as though she had a feud with the former that was absolutely irreconcilable.

"I said that once I recovered my strength, the first thing I would do is tear you into ten thousand pieces!" The bewitching beauty clenched her silver teeth and spoke in a chilly voice.

"Big sister, I am also a victim. I was completely void of any sense of reasoning in that kind of situation. Please let me off. We can treat it as though nothing happened. I will definitely not tell anyone." Xiao Yan's face was filled with bitterness as he cupped his hands toward Queen Medusa and spoke.

"In your dreams!" Queen Medusa immediately became extremely furious upon hearing this. She waved her hand, and a seven-colored energy surged out explosively.

"Queen Medusa, don't you dare go overboard. Don't blame me for being insensitive if you continue!" Xiao Yan's eyes stared furiously as he shook his hand. A dark-green flame that was just like a faint ghost flame surfaced on his palm. The magma world immediately began to become violent as the cluster of dark-green flame appeared. Magma began to churn before eventually stopping under Xiao Yan's feet like ocean waves. At a glance, it looked as though Xiao Yan was walking on waves. However, this was no ocean wave, but a wave consisting of magma.

Even with Queen Medusa's strength, her expression could not help but change upon seeing the uprising of the magma wave. She also clearly understood that this bastard in front of her had already subdued the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. Fighting him in this environment would do her no good even though she had already recovered her strength to her peak. Moreover, she really had difficulty truly attacking Xiao Yan. She concluded

that this should be some side effect from having merged with the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. Otherwise, given her usual character, she would definitely tear this bastard, who had committed blasphemy toward her, even if she had to fight until both of them were seriously injured.

Xiao Yan only sigh in relief when he saw that Queen Medusa had become much quieter than before. He wiped off the perspiration on his forehead and smiled bitterly in his heart. Dammit. What damn thing had happened? He had actually in his muddiness took this beautiful snake...

"Let's not continue to fight among ourselves now. You don't wish to stay in such a place forever right?" Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders toward Queen Medusa and pointed toward the top. "With your own strength, it would be somewhat difficult to break the seal. It should be much easier if we join hands. What do you say?"

A glint flickered in Queen Medusa's eyes before she nodded with a cold face a moment later. She had already made up her mind. Once she left this damn place, she would definitely let this bastard pay the price for sullyng her!

# Chapter 622: Breaking Through the Tower and Escaping

Today was an extremely lively day within the Inner Academy. According to tradition, the Inner Academy would organize an activity each month where all the students would enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to train. The students greatly supported such an activity. This was because there was no need to pay any 'Fire Energy' to enter the tower to train for this single day. Today was coincidentally, the day of the monthly collective training.

Xiao Yan had also heard of such an activity while he was in the academy in the past. However, he had seldom participated in it. This was because he did not need to worry about the problem of 'Fire Energy' given his extremely wealthy status. Naturally, he did not need to go and fight with so many people for a training room.

Following the change in the policy of the Inner Academy during these two years, the number of people in the Inner Academy had gradually greatly increased. Hence, the crowd in the Inner Academy was naturally not something that could be compared with the past.

Due to this, there were groups that began coming one after another to the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' not longer after the morning bell rang. By the time the sun was hanging in the sky, the spacious open ground outside the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' had already become filled with people.

Currently, the surroundings of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' had been rebuilt into a large plaza. The middle of the plaza was the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' which still only revealed its peak. Additionally, there was a statue standing at the entrance of the tower. The statue was extremely young. A black robe and a warm smile set off the young and clear face, giving it an extremely handsome appearance.

Almost everyone within the Inner Academy had seen this statue that stood at the entrance. Hence, no one displayed a surprised expression

when they walked past it. Occasionally, there would be some students who would pause and bow toward this statue. If one were to carefully observe them, one would realize that these students were wearing a badge on their chest that had a dark-black background with a ruler like thing being carved on it. This badge was not unfamiliar. This was because it was the symbol of 'Pan's Gate'.

At this moment, a tall lady was standing prettily in front of the statue. Her gaze contained an unknown feeling as she watched the familiar appearance of the statue in an absent-minded fashion. The lady had quite a pretty face, but the thing that attracted the most attention was that pair of long, smooth, sexy legs. A couple of people walking past would involuntarily sweep their gazes past the former's legs. However, this scanning was extremely obscure. This was because they were similarly well aware of this woman's identity. An upper echelon of 'Pan's Gate'. It was rumored that she was the older cousin of Xiao Yan's, the founder of 'Pan's Gate', Xiao Yu...

'Pan's Gate'. This faction was currently just like a truly large being within the Inner Academy. No other faction dared challenge it. Xiao Yu, who possessed quite a high status within it, was naturally someone that no one dared offend. Normally speaking, if there was anyone who coveted her beauty and spoke in an impertinent manner, he would end up with a bruise and swollen face the next day.

"You fool, you always love to try appear impressive. In the end... a statue, is there any meaning? Can it allow you to develop the Xiao clan?" A bitter smile surfaced on Xiao Yu's face as she softly sighed and muttered.

A commotion suddenly began to spread across the crowd over the plaza while Xiao Yu was muttering. Immediately, a large crowd came surging in like floodwaters. These people who had swarmed in were all wearing similar badges as Xiao Yu.

The noise of the entire plaza immediately became softer when they saw this large group of people who had squeezed in. This was especially so when their gaze saw the little girl swinging her pale-purple ponytail leading the group at the front. All of them hurriedly turned their gazes

away. That demon-like little fellow was an extremely frightening existence to many people within the Inner Academy.

The little girl swaggered as she led a large group of people to squeeze into the plaza. She saw Xiao Yu in front of the statue in a glance. With a wave of her small hand, the large group behind her quickly followed.

“Yu-er, you are daydreaming here again.” She obviously looked like a child but she purposefully acted like an elderly person. This scene caused many people to want to laugh. However, other than Xiao Yu who burst out laughing while shaking her head, the remaining people held their mouths tightly shut, afraid that they would emit a laughter and invite that frightening little fist.

“Zi Yan, you think... he is still alive?” Xiao Yu rubbed the statue before suddenly asking with a smile.

Zi Yan was startled when she heard this. Her gem like pupils turned gloomy but she recovered swiftly and spoke, “The chance of survival after being swallowing by a ‘Heavenly Flame’ is very low.”

Seeming to be well aware of this answer, Xiao Yu’s face did not change much. Her delicate hand moved across the statue and laughed softly, “For some unknown reason, my heart has been pounding rapidly these days. There seems to be something big that’s about to happen.”

“Something big would really happen if your heart didn’t beat.” A man and a woman slowly walked out after laughter was transmitted from behind the crowd before speaking to Xiao Yu.

“Huh? Quick, look. It’s actually bloody sword Wu Hao and green wooden woman Hu Jia.”

“These are the top five peak experts in the Strong Ranking. It is normally extremely difficult to see them. It is really unexpected that even they have appeared.”

The appearance of the two people immediately cause the entire plaza to break out in a commotion. Private conversations repeatedly broke out. Clearly, these people felt extremely excited to be able to see people who

were truly a renowned top figures within the Inner Academy.

“What, have both of your leaves finished?” Xiao Yu softly laughed as she looked at the two.

Wu Hao and Hu Jia smiled. The two years had also caused the two of them to become much more mature. Their gazes swept over the statue beside Xiao Yu and their smiles were slightly withdrawn. They sighed, “It is fortunate that Xun Er had already left... otherwise...”

Xiao Yu was silent. She clearly understood the relationship between Xiao Yan and Xun Er. If the latter was to see him being swallowed by the ‘Heavenly Flame’ it was likely that she would suffer a pain for the rest of her life. It is somewhat better like this.

“Gong!”

A clear gong sound suddenly sounded on the plaza while the few of them were silent, causing the noisy plaza to become quiet.

A sound of rushing wind suddenly sounded after this gong sound. Immediately, a couple of human figures rushed down from the sky before finally appearing on a tall platform.

The one leading them was surprisingly the white-haired First Elder Su Qian. Behind him were some Elders of similarly old age. The people who attracted the most attention in the entire place were still the three young people behind Su Qian. These three people were not very old, but they possessed an extraordinary aura. The badges that they wore on their chests indicated their identity. They were surprisingly holding the position of Elders.

An Elder of the Inner Academy would require a minimum strength of a Dou Wang. From this, one could tell that these three young people had already stepped into the Dou Wang class at such a young age!

“It is really unexpected that Lin Xiuya, Liu Qing, and Lin Yan have really remained behind. The others have mostly left the Inner Academy to roam the continent.” Wu Hao smiled and spoke as he studied the three familiar faces on the platform.

“Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing plan to train for a period of time within the Inner Academy. That stubborn Lin Yan said that he had promised to leave with Xiao Yan. Therefore...” Hu Jia helplessly shook her head and sighed.

“He is indeed very stubborn...” Wu Hao spoke with a bitter smile.

Su Qian’s gaze slowly swept over the extremely crowded plaza from the high platform. A moment later, he paused on the statue at the entrance of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’. He, in an absent-minded manner, muttered, “If that fellow is still alive, I’m afraid that even I would have difficulty defeating him.”

Lin Xiuya and the other two behind Su Qian looked at one another and nodded their heads. Even with their haughtiness, they could only admire that name.

“First Elder, according to our news, the ‘Black Alliance’ has invited many other factions to join them recently. They might have some motives. We must guard against them.” An Elder stepped forward and suddenly spoke softly.

Su Qian lifted his eyebrows and slowly nodded his head. He coldly smiled, “That Han Feng does indeed have some ability. In only two short years, he has actually been able to establish a ‘Black Alliance’ to contend with our Jia Nan Academy.”

The few Elders nodded their heads slightly. The gathering ability of a tier 6 alchemist was indeed extraordinary. Currently, the strength of the ‘Black Alliance’ was something that even the Jia Nan Academy would have difficulty getting rid of. They knew that the ‘Black Alliance’ had already become a thorn in the First Elder’s heart.

“Forget it, let’s not discuss such unhappy things at such a time. We have time. Let’s slowly hold it off with them.” Su Qian waved his hand and spoke indifferently.

“Yes.”

All the Elders responded after hearing this.

“It is about time. Prepare to open the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’.”

Su Qian raised his head to look at the sky as he spoke.

An Elder acknowledged the order, and flew down from the tall platform. He landed outside the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' and his hand swiftly formed a few seals. After which, Dou Qi was spurted on the main door. Immediately, that thick, heavy, dark-black door slowly opened while emitting some creaking sounds.

"Remember, everyone should enter in an orderly manner. No conflict can occur today. Otherwise, for one week, one will be proh..." Su Qian's gaze swept over everyone as he spoke in a faint manner. However, before all his words were spoken, his face suddenly changed because of his sharp senses. His gaze suddenly turned toward the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. At that spot, he clearly sensed that a frighteningly hot temperature was swiftly approaching. He hurriedly cry out sternly, "There's a change in the tower. Shut the door immediately. Hurry!"

Su Qian's sudden cry caused the entire place to be completely silent. Countless numbers of gazes were stunned as they watched the sudden change in Su Qian's expression. They were completely at a loss.

Although that Elder was uncertain about what exactly happened, he used the fastest speed to shut that heavy large door with a bang upon hearing Su Qian's loud cry.

The temperature of the entire place suddenly rose not long after the tower's door was shut. A loud rumbling similar to the churning of magma softly approached along with an activity that shook the ground and swayed the mountains.

"Dammit, it's the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. Is that thing about to erupt again? Everyone, leave the plaza immediately!"

Su Qian's expression became extremely ugly as the temperature of the plaza rose. This kind of situation... was witnessed back then...

"Bang!"

Su Qian's voice had just sounded when a frighteningly loud sound suddenly reverberated. Everyone could see that the 'Blazing Sky Qi

Refining Tower' was trembling violently.

“Bang!”

Another loud sound was emitted. The top of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' began to reveal numerous crack lines as thick as a thumb in front of Su Qian's shocked gaze.

“Bang!”

Another loud sound appeared. The crack lines immediately covered the entire of the top of the tower. This kind of situation cause a paleness to surge on Su Qian's face. Would the scene back then once again appear?

“Bang!”

During the last loud 'bang', the incomparably hard roof of the tower finally burst apart. A bright-red magma peak began to blast out from the tower like a volcano erupting before charging toward the sky in front of a countless number of stunned gazes and began to scatter down.

The plaza was immediately in a complete chaos as the magma scattered down. However, the magma suddenly solidified when it was still a couple of meters from the ground. A clear and bright laugh that carried a wild joy, which could not be hidden, resounded over the sky like that of rolling thunder.

“Ha ha, I, Xiao Yan, am finally out. Ha ha!”

# Chapter 623: Test

Bright-red magma covered the sky. Strangely, however, it did not scatter down, but instead solidified in mid-air. That manner was as though it was like the sky was flooded with fresh blood, appearing extremely eye-catching.

The entire plaza was deadly silent. Everyone was stunned as they looked at the sudden change of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. After two years, the new students who had entered the Inner Academy were mostly unaware of the earth-shaking great battle that had erupted in the Inner Academy back then. Hence, it was the first time they had seen any change in the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'!

The stunned looks continued for an instant before they were suddenly awakened by the wild joyous cry that resounded throughout the sky. Everyone who had yet to recover blinked their eyes while feeling at a loss. Xiao Yan? This name... seemed a little familiar.

Of course, this name might be only familiar to ordinary students, but it was unforgettable to some people. Immediately, numerous shocked gazes carried disbelief as they turned toward the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'!

"Xiao... Xiao Yan? This fellow is still alive? He is really still alive! This voice cannot be wrong! Cannot be wrong!"

Wu Hao's usual stern face was covered with an unrestrained joy at this moment. His gaze stared intently at the bright-red magma pillar which had erupted from the top of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. His voice had become somewhat hoarse in his excitement.

Xiao Yu by the side was biting her lower lip with the back of her teeth. Her lovely body shook gently. Some moisture even surged into her eyes in her excitement. He was still alive? He was really still alive!

Not only were the Elders on the tall platform affected, but even the indifferent faced First Elder Su Qian was also using a stunned gaze to look at the magma pillar that shot directly to the sky. A moment later, he

finally said, somewhat absent-minded, "The voice just now... it appears to be Xiao Yan?"

"First Elder, it's Xiao Yan! There's no mistake. I said that that fellow will definitely not die! Ha ha!" Lin Yan's face turned bright-red in his excitement. For some unknown reason, he held a confidence for that fellow which was difficult for an ordinary person to understand. Even though Xiao Yan was swallowed by the 'Heavenly Flame', and was dragged into the endless underground, he firmly believed that the strong stubborn fellow would definitely climb out once again!

Although this absolute confidence was a somewhat pedantic stubbornness, he still believed it! Moreover, he did it without the slightest reason.

"It is good that he didn't die. It is good that he didn't die..." First Elder laughed. Although his face appeared calm, his tone also revealed shock and excitement in his heart.

"This fellow... really cannot be predicted with common sense."

Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing exchanged glances before smiling with a sigh. It was fortunate that they had remained behind back then. Otherwise, they would not be able to see this shocking scene today.

Under the many gazes that were filled with different emotions, the magma pillar that had erupted out from the top of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' suddenly coagulated and immediately broke apart in the air. A human figure slowly appeared in front of everyone's gazes after the magma pillar broke apart automatically.

The person who was at the spot where the magma was had a tall frame and was wearing a black robe. This, accompanied by the warm smile that hung on his delicate and handsome face, gave him a uniquely handsome look. Everyone was slightly startled when they saw the young man walking out from the magma without the slightest injury. Immediately after that, they suddenly appeared to have recalled something. All the gazes suddenly turned toward the sculpture in front of the entrance of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Numerous sounds of people inhaling cold air appeared

one after another in the plaza. Now, they had finally recalled who exactly the so-called Xiao Yan was...

The black-robed young man was suspended in the sky. His gaze slowly swept over the large crowd below before eventually seeing some familiar faces. A smile was lifted from the corner of his mouth as he laughed in a clear and loud manner, “Ke ke, everyone, Xiao Yan is back. Do you welcome me?”

“Little fellow, it is really unexpected that we can meet again.” A smile involuntarily surfaced on Su Qian’s face as he laughed out loud after hearing that clear laughter of the young man.

“After not seeing you for so long, First Elder is becoming stronger with age.” Xiao Yan smiled. He waved his sleeves and the bright-red magma all over the sky strangely rushed back and was returned to the magma pillar. Immediately, the enormous magma pillar suddenly followed the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ as it smashed down in front of a countless number of shocked gazes. That great momentum caused one’s mind to tremble. Their gazes were all filled with a much denser respect the next time they looked at Xiao Yan.

He had actually forced back such an enormous magma pillar by simply raising his hand. This posture of the strong caused a fiery heat to rise in the eyes of many students. This was the realm they were pursuing!

Xiao Yan’s toes pressed on the air after expelling all the magma. A faint silver glow appeared, and his body flashed and appeared on the tall platform in a ghost-like manner.

Everyone on the tall platform knit their brows slightly when they saw this ghost-like speed of Xiao Yan. Clearly, the current Xiao Yan seemed to be much stronger than he was in the past.

“You’ve advanced to the Dou Wang class?” A glint flickered passed Su Qian’s eyes as he laughed. He knew that Xiao Yan’s true strength in the past was at the very most at the Dou Ling class. Although he was eventually able to fight with an expert Dou Huang like Han Feng, the former, given his eyesight, naturally understood that the strength did not

truly belong to Xiao Yan. Now, however, he could clearly sense that Xiao Yan was really using his own strength when displaying his speed.

“I think so.” Xiao Yan rubbed his head. He was also not very certain. This time around, his breakthrough was achieved in an unconscious state. Hence, he was not very clear just what class he was currently in.

“Why don’t you let Lin Xiuya try?” Su Qian laughed. He was also quite curious about just what level this fellow had reached, who always caused people to witness a miracle, after not seeing him for two years.

“I could not wish for more. Back then, I had ultimately not sparred with him.” Xiao Yan laughed softly. His gaze was thrown toward the eager face of Lin Xiuya behind Su Qian.

“Not having exchanged blows with you has always been my regret. It is best that I make up for it today.” Lin Xiuya smiled. His toes pressed on the rock platform, and his body rushed down before eventually appearing on an empty piece of land in the plaza. After which, he raised his head and looked at Xiao Yan with eager eyes.

The conversation between Su Qian and the rest had not been suppressed. Hence, everyone’s faces had immediately become excited when they saw Lin Xiuya stepping down from the platform. With a flapping sound, all of them surrounded the place until nothing could pass. There was hardly anyone who did not know of Lin Xiuya’s reputation. The founder of ‘Wolf Teeth’. Although he was currently no longer involved in the matters of ‘Wolf Teeth’, ‘Wolf Teeth’ still stood as a top tier faction within the Inner Academy by relying on his reputation. There was seldom anyone who dared to offend them.

Of course, most of the thoughts people were having were about witnessing Xiao Yan’s true strength. During these years, Xiao Yan’s name had already become a legend within the Inner Academy. Although many people verbally passed on the earth-shaking battle back then, some of the new students could not help but form doubt in their hearts after hearing a lot about it as time passed on. A student who was of similar age as them back then was actually able to defeat an expert Dou Huang after having

only arrived for one year? Was this not too great of an exaggeration?

Hence, they were naturally extremely happy and wanted to experience an eye-opening battle. Especially now that they had witnessed Xiao Yan appearing, and was already about to spar with an expert like Lin Xiuya the moment he did so.

Although Lin Xiuya had already become an Elder, he still possessed quite a great reputation among the students these few years. His great strength also caused some of the thorn-like students to be afraid of offending him. Therefore, many students felt that he was the right choice to be Xiao Yan's opponent.

Xiao Yan also involuntarily shook his head as he watched the black mass of human crowd below. Was the activity in this place not a little too large?

"Little fellow, currently, the Inner Academy is even more competitive than two years ago. There are a countless number of thorny students. You don't want your status as a Senior to be doubted by these little fellows right?" Su Qian smiled and spoke. His attempt to get Xiao Yan and Lin Xiuya to spar in public was to help raise Xiao Yan's reputation. There were currently too many new students. People from the past tend to be easily forgotten.

"Two years? I didn't expect that two years had actually passed by with a glance..." Xiao Yan was stunned and he involuntarily sighed sobbingly. He immediately nodded and his body flashed. The next time he appeared, he was shockingly already standing in front of Lin Xiuya.

"Xiao Yan, you are the leader of our 'Pan's Gate' so you better not lose our face. Currently, all the brothers in 'Pan's Gate' are watching you, our leader who has been missing for two years!" Xiao Yan had just stabilized his body when a loud laugh suddenly sounded from outside the battleground. He was startled before following the voice to take a look. There was a large group of black mass on a tall platform outside the plaza. The few leaders of this large group were surprisingly Wu Hao, Hu Jia, Zi Yan, and... Xiao Yu huh?

A large group of people with heated gazes were behind these few people.

At this moment, their gazes were searing hot as they watched the black-robed young man in the battleground. At the time they joined 'Pan's Gate' they had heard quite a number of people describing the stories when 'Pan's Gate' was founded and their founder. Hence, this Xiao Yan, whom they had never seen before, had a majestic position within their hearts.

"I will catch up with all of you later."

Xiao Yan smiled toward Wu Hao and the others before slowly turning toward Lin Xiuya who was looking at him solemnly. The other party's eyes were filled with an unusually intense fear. This kind of expression had appeared in Xiao Yan in the past. Now, its position had changed.

Su Qian smiled on the high platform as he looked at the two who were facing each other. He asked, "How many exchanges do you think Lin Xiuya will be able to endure in Xiao Yan's hands?"

Everyone was startled when they heard this. It was a long while later before an Elder softly inquired, "Is First Elder referring to the precondition that Xiao Yan had used all the things to raise his strength?"

"His own strength." Su Qian shook his head slightly and softly spoke, "I guess that it won't exceed three exchanges."

All the Elders were startled. It was a long while later before that Elder laughed dryly, "Lin Xiuya is currently a five star Dou Wang. It would be somewhat difficult to defeat him within three rounds even if it was an ordinary Dou Huang."

Su Qian simply smiled without speaking. Although Xiao Yan's aura was somewhat strange making it difficult for even him to sense the former's strength, he was still able to vaguely sense that Xiao Yan's current strength should be somewhat terrifying...

While everyone heads swarmed to focus on the ground, Xiao Yan was clenching his fist tightly and sensing the surging strength within his body. He laughed softly, "Shall we begin?"

"Aye!"

Lin Xiuya nodded his head. A ferocious aura that only an expert of the

Dou Wang class surged out from within Lin Xiuya's body. Two years had already allowed him to truly enter into the Dou Wang class, and had even allowed him to climb increasingly higher within it. With his current strength, he could be considered around the upper-middle level even among the Elders!

“Bang!”

A dark-green Dou Qi surged out from Lin Xiuya's body. He clenched his fist and a longsword that was completely agglomerated from wind affinity energy surfaced. The longsword was swung randomly and a wind blade shot out from it, cutting a scar on the hard black rock.

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head when he saw that Lin Xiuya was nearly completely armed. A silver glow was faintly visible under his feet as a slight thundering roar quietly sounded. Xiao Yan's entire body trembled the moment the rumbling thunder appeared!

Lin Xiuya's solemn expression immediately changed just as Xiao Yan's body trembled. He immediately pierced the longsword violently toward his back amid the numerous stunned gazes from around him.

The sword that contained a ferocious wind was pierced toward the air but the place was empty. Such a situation caused all the pores on Lin Xiuya's body to tense up. He had clearly sensed Xiao Yan's aura appearing behind him...

“When has this fellow's speed become so frightening?”

A thought rotated in a lightning-like manner within his heart. Although Xiao Yan's speed was swift and fierce in the past, there was at least some traces to follow. Now, however, he seemed intangible and was difficult to sense.

Lin Xiuya's gaze swiftly shifted in all directions. His eyes suddenly shrank as the energy longsword faced his front and pierced forward fiercely!

The surrounding students were completely at a loss as this sudden random piercing by Lin Xiuya. Was Xiao Yan not standing at the original

spot without moving? Why did Lin Xiuya act in such a crazy manner all of a sudden?

The eyesight of an ordinary students naturally could not see the mystery behind his actions. Only those who were strong could vaguely discover that Xiao Yan's figure which remained at the original spot seemed to be somewhat illusory. Some of those who were sensitive immediately came to a sudden understanding within their hearts. It was actually an afterimage?

Just what kind of strange, unpredictable agility and speed did one need to be able to leave an afterimage in such a quiet fashion?

A cluster of dark-green flames suddenly appeared when the longsword that had pierced forward fiercely reached a certain part of the air. When the longsword was pierced into the cluster of flame, everyone could clearly see that the longsword which was agglomerated from energy, did not even struggle much before it was completely incinerated into nothingness by the dark-green flame.

The moment the longsword turned into nothingness, a black figure suddenly appeared in front of everyone's stunned gazes as though it had teleported.

The black-robed young man smiled at Lin Xiuya. His hand which contained the dark-green flame was suddenly extended out explosively and directly grabbed toward the latter's neck.

"Blade web!"

Lin Xiuya displayed his extraordinary fighting experience at this critical moment. He formed a seal in his hand and the energy in front of him rippled swiftly. Finally, it agglomerated into a dark-green energy web.

However, Xiao Yan's hand did not pause even a little when faced with this energy web which was covered with tiny wind blades. His hand continued to extend in an extremely direct fashion. Being burned by that dark-green flame, the sharp wind blade web immediately became like weak thin paper as it tore through it...

Xiao Yan's hand passed through the blade web without any resistance

and slowly came to a stop when it was merely half an inch from Lin Xiuya's neck.

The entire place was silent!

Everyone watched Lin Xiuya who did not dare to make the slightest move under Xiao Yan's hand which was covered by that dark-green flame. Shock quietly climbed onto their faces.

One move!

A five star expert Dou Wang had actually... merely lasted for one extremely simple move in Xiao Yan's hand!

# Chapter 624: Bane Existence

This scene caused surprise to surface on the face of even Su Qian who had long since sensed that Xiao Yan's strength had already reached an extremely powerful level...

The dark-green flame on Xiao Yan's hand swiftly disappeared amid the complete silence of the place. He smiled and spoke to Lin Xiuya whose entire body remained stiff, "Lin Xiuya, thanks for the win."

Lin Xiuya carefully shifted his head away and let out a bitter laugh. Although that dark-green flame did not touch his skin, he could sense that if Xiao Yan's hand had moved just a little bit closer, it was likely that he would have been instantly burned into a pile of ashes by that frightening flame.

"You... are too abnormal. After not seeing you for two years, you have actually become this strong." Lin Xiuya scattered the Dou Qi on his body and sighed. Originally, he had thought that his training speed was not bad, but it was unexpected that he had merely lasted one exchange in Xiao Yan's hand. This had caused him to be somewhat dispirited.

"I had merely used the advantages of the 'Heavenly Flame'. Senior Lin need not belittle yourself in this manner." Xiao Yan patted Lin Xiuya's shoulders and immediately turned his head toward the black mass of human crowd. He smiled and asked, "Has everyone seen enough?"

Everyone smiled awkwardly after hearing Xiao Yan's words. They no longer had the slightest doubt toward that great battle back then. Xiao Yan was about to defeat Lin Xiuya and the latter had no means to retaliate despite the latter's strength. It was not impossible for one to say that Xiao Yan had defeated an expert Dou Huang.

Xiao Yan and Lin Xiuya once again walked toward the tall platform. The former watched the stunned face of Su Qian and involuntarily laughed, "How is it? Can you see what level I am at now?"

Su Qian fondled his beard and adopted an expression which suggested he was deep in thought. A long while later, he finally spoke slowly, "From

the looks of the aura that you have revealed when you fought earlier, I think that you should be at the peak of the Dou Wang class. With this strength, it is not impossible for you to defeat Lin Xiuya in one move but... that dark green flame on your hand is exceptionally strange.”

Su Qian’s face was somewhat solemn at the end when he spoke. This was because even he faintly felt a slight danger from the dark-green flame earlier. This kind of danger may be extremely tiny, but it was exceptionally clear. Such a situation caused him to feel some doubt. It was not that he had never seen a ‘Heavenly Flame’. However, even when someone of Han Feng’s strength controlled the ‘Heavenly Flame’, it merely cause him to be a little afraid. However, he had never received such a fearful feeling before.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. This dark-green flame was a newly born flame from the merger of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ and the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. A ‘Heavenly Flame’ was already extremely powerful, much less the combination of two kinds. Back then, when he was entangled with Queen Medusa underground, she was extremely afraid of it despite her strength. Clearly the power that this flame carried was extremely terrifying.

“Chi!”

Just as Xiao Yan had just recalled Queen Medusa, a seven-colored energy pillar suddenly shot down explosively from the sky. Finally, it became like a snake as it rushed toward Xiao Yan while emitting a ‘Chi La’ sound. The air even emitted waves of ear-piercing sound wherever the pillar passed.

Xiao Yan had sensed something the moment the seven-colored energy pillar appeared. He frowned a little. This woman... she had actually yet to give up huh?

Xiao Yan was about to prepare to defend himself when the expression of Su Qian, who had discovered the sudden attack at the same time, changed. He waved his sleeves and a powerful Dou Qi surged out. Finally, it violently collided with that seven-colored energy pillar. Immediately a clear sound resounded throughout the sky like thunder.

“Since you are here, why do you need to act in such a stealthy manner?”

Su Qian raised his hand and stared at the clear sky while he cried out coldly. He had already faintly sensed the appearance of another extremely powerful aura when Xiao Yan had just appeared. However, even with his strength, he was actually unable to accurately tell the location of that aura. He had only locked on to its location when the seven-colored energy was shot out.

The collision that suddenly erupted also caused a countless number of students in the plaza to raise their heads in surprise. However, there was not a human figure in the empty sky.

Not long after Su Qian's cry sounded, the sky wiggled slightly and a graceful lovely body immediately appeared out of nowhere. Her bewitching long eyes swept over the sea of people below indifferently. Those people who were seen by those eyes, which contained an endless amount of allure, could not help but have their heart pound violently. A redness even involuntarily surfaced on their faces.

Queen Medusa's indifferent eyes swept slowly before eventually stopping on the black-robed young man who was beside Su Qian. An icy-cold killing intent flashed in them. She twisted her water-snake-like delicate waist, and her body rushed downward. In the blink of an eye, she appeared at a spot which was only a couple of meters from where Xiao Yan was located. With a swirl of her delicate hand, an enormous seven-colored energy surfaced and eventually carried a wind that could flip the seas and collapse the mountains as it violently smashed toward the latter.

"This is the Inner Academy. Aren't your actions today a little too arrogant?" Su Qian's expression immediately sunk when he saw that the bewitching beauty had not only not replied but had unleashed an attack toward Xiao Yan once again. His body flashed and appeared in front of Xiao Yan. His shriveled hand trembled slightly and immediately made contact with that white jade-like hand.

"Bang!"

A wave of wild wind that carried a loud exploding sound erupted the moment both palms made contact. Numerous arm thick crack lines began

to swiftly spread and cover the entire tall platform under the shocked gazes of those around.

The wild wind blew everyone until they fell in all directions. Beside Su Qian, everyone more or less took a couple of steps back with the exception of Xiao Yan, who did not move.

“Bang!”

Both hands parted upon making contact. Amid a low and deep sounds, that graceful delicate lovely figure rushed back into the air. Her feet only became stable after stepping over ten steps in the air. On the other hand, Su Qian had also taken a couple of steps back. Each time his feet landed, they left behind a half inch deep footprint on the hard ground.

Clearly, both of them were actually of similar strength in this collision!

The seriousness of Su Qian’s face became denser after exchanging one head on blow with that mysterious woman. From that short exchange, he could sense that the other party was shockingly also a Dou Zong!

“Who exactly are you? Can you please tell me your name!?”

The woman stood in the empty sky. Her red dress flapped, wrapping a protruding and concaving figure that was filled with incomparable allure. Her exquisite face was cold and glamorous. However, it was this icy coldness that caused many people to feel a boiling heat in their hearts. Such a woman really possessed quite a lethal effect on all men.

Queen Medusa’s flawless appearance caused even Su Qian to be slightly startled, much less those young students who were still extremely inexperienced. Some of those who had weak mental strength had quietly swallowed their saliva an unknown amount of times.

“My target is Xiao Yan. It has nothing to do with you!”

Queen Medusa coldly stared at Xiao Yan. Her red lips parted slightly and a clear numbing voice caused the bones of quite a number of people to become weak at this moment.

All the gazes were gathered on Xiao Yan’s body upon hearing these

words of Queen Medusa. Their surprised gazes also contained some envy. These young people viewed being called by name by such a beauty to be a kind of great glory.

“Do you know her?” Su Qian knit his brows and softly asked Xiao Yan a question.

“I have some conflict with her.” Xiao Yan smiled and spoke. His reply, however, was vague. After all, it was not possible for him to tell Su Qian that he did ‘that’ to her right?

“Ugh, you brat. How can you provoke these troublesome people. This woman is actually also an elite Dou Zong. Even I may not be able to defeat her if we were to fight.” Su Qian felt a great headache as he spoke. It was unexpected that this fellow brought such big trouble the moment he came out. An elite Dou Zong. Even if one looked at the entire continent, they were extremely powerful existence.

Xiao Yan also laughed bitterly. He raised his head and helplessly spoke to Queen Medusa, “Just what exactly do you want? You are already free. Quickly return to the place that you should return to.”

Queen Medusa immediately felt extremely furious when she heard this. This bastard had done that kind of thing and actually still dared to use an irritated face to ask her what she wanted?

“I will return after killing you.”

“Ke ke, this friend. Xiao Yan is someone from my Inner Academy. We can sit down and talk if the both of you have any grudges. Why must you fight?” Su Qian smiled as he spoke. He would naturally not show any forceful attitude when faced with an elite Dou Zong.

Queen Medusa ignored Su Qian’s words. Her pupils that were filled with an allure carried a dense coldness as they glared at Xiao Yan. A moment later, she coldly said, “Don’t think that I cannot kill you just because there is an elite Dou Zong protecting you. I don’t believe that you can follow beside him forever!”

Queen Medusa’s body flashed after saying this. Subsequently, she

transformed into flowing light and rushed out of the Inner Academy, disappearing in the blink of an eye.

Xiao Yan watched Queen Medusa who disappeared far away helplessly. He could not resist knocking his own head, he felt a great headache forming. Did one not say that a woman would have some complicated feelings after having lost her virginity? Why was it that this woman only wanted to kill him? Would killing him be able to change the fact that he had possessed her body?

“You brat, it’s good now, being locked onto by a Dou Zong. It is likely that you will suffer in the future. How troublesome.” Su Qian sighed. Being locked onto be a Dou Zong was not something fun.

Xiao Yan spread his hand. Immediately, he seemed to have recalled something and spoke in an embarrassed manner, “There is another trouble that I have forgotten to tell you...”

Su Qian was startled. He immediately knit his brows and asked, “What is it now? Don’t tell me that you have offended more than one Dou Zong.”

“That’s not it...” Xiao Yan parted his mouth to smile as he spoke awkwardly, “That... I have accidentally refined the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. In other words, that ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ of yours might no longer have any effect to raise one’s training speed in the future...”

Su Qian blinked his eyes. His mind immediately felt a giddiness a moment later...

“This bane existence!”

# Chapter 625: Solving the Trouble

“First Elder, the heart flame inside the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ is indeed being gradually reduced. At this rate, it is likely that all of it will completely disappear not long later.”

The expression on Su Qian’s face became interesting after he had heard the result of an investigation by an Elder in the spacious hall. He clenched his teeth violently before becoming hopelessly depressed a moment later. His heart laughed bitterly. It was unexpected that the ‘Heavenly Flame’ was not snatched by someone else, but was actually directly refined by this fellow.

The importance of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ toward the Inner Academy was naturally extremely great. Otherwise, it would not cause Su Qian and the rest to guard it with their lives. Now, however, with the disappearance of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’, its effect of raising one’s training speed would also gradually weaken until it disappeared. In other words, there would no longer be much meaning to the existence of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’.

Having lost the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’, the system of grooming strong people that the Inner Academy was proud of might well have been broken. The subsequent results would be extremely serious.

The atmosphere was a little quiet in the hall. All the Elders were also helpless as they watched the despondent expression of the First Elder. Now that the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ had already been refined by Xiao Yan, they could not simply just ask him to spit it out no? It was still fine if Xiao Yan was an enemy. They could forcefully capture him and remove the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. However, the most troublesome thing was that this fellow had done quite a big favor for the Inner Academy. If Xiao Yan had not defeated those two Dou Huangs in the great battle two years ago, it was likely that the Inner Academy would have suffered severe losses in that fight.

Xiao Yan was also somewhat embarrassed as he sensed the atmosphere

in the hall. Honestly speaking, he still felt a little apologetic toward Su Qian. After all, he had had intentions toward the 'Fallen Heart Flame' from the moment he had entered Jia Nan Academy. Although he appeared to have been a great help to the academy in that great battle, his hidden motive was to try his best to have a bigger chance of obtaining the 'Fallen Heart Flame'.

"First Elder, is there any other method to remedy the situation?" Xiao Yan carefully inquired. It was somewhat impossible for him to hand over the 'Fallen Heart Flame' now that things had developed to this point. However, he also felt somewhat uneasy if he simply just watched the Inner Academy suffer such a great loss.

"Ugh, from the looks of things now, it seems that we can only use a man-made 'Fallen Heart Flame'. Otherwise, the effects of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' will disappear completely." Su Qian was silent for a long time after hearing Xiao Yan's words. Only then did he sigh and said helplessly.

"A man-made 'Fallen Heart Flame'?" Xiao Yan was startled. A 'Heavenly Flame' could actually be man-made?

"Creating this thing is not considered very difficult. Back then, the headmaster left behind a back-up 'Fallen Heart Flame' container before he had left. As long as one pours some 'Fallen Heart Flame' within it, it is still able to enable the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to possess the effect of raising one's training speed. However, the effect will be a little worse than before." Su Qian looked at Xiao Yan before continuing, "This requires your help. Separate a little of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' and hand it to us. This should not be a problem right?"

Xiao Yan quietly sigh in relief when he heard this. The 'Fallen Heart Flame' had already been refined by him into an essence flame seed. As long as the Dou Qi in his body was not exhausted, it would be able to create an endless amount of it for use. Separating a little of it out may exhaust his Dou Qi, but he was already extremely satisfied that there was a method which achieved the best of both worlds.

“However, that kind of summoned ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ poses many limitations. Once my Dou Qi disappears, the flame will automatically disappear...” Xiao Yan could not help but speak with hesitation when he recalled this.

“The container was created personally by the headmaster. You need not be concerned about this type of problem. However, this container can only attain a delaying effect. Hence, it is likely that you must periodically come to the Inner Academy to help replenish the flame of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’...” Su Qian mused out loud.

“Periodically returning to the Inner Academy?” Xiao Yan was a little startled as he laughed bitterly, “Is there an exact timeframe for this ‘periodically’? If I leave the Inner Academy in the future, I won’t have to return to this place once every half a month or month right?”

“This is something that I’m not very certain. However, as long as you leave enough flame for us to store, it should not be a problem maintaining it for one to two years.” Su Qian thought for a moment before speaking.

“That’s good...” Xiao Yan sighed and nodded with a smile, “Alright, I’ll do as First Elder recommends.”

“Ugh, brat, you got it cheap. It is really unexpected that the thing which Han Feng failed to obtain despite putting in so much effort was easily obtained by you. Our Inner Academy has protected it with great difficulty for so many years only to benefit you, little fellow.” Su Qian rolled his eyes. His voice was somewhat sour as he spoke. He naturally understood the effect of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ best. Xiao Yan had refined it. Therefore, his originally frightening training speed would likely soar greatly in the future. Such a temptation was extremely great to anyone.

Xiao Yan smiled awkwardly before immediately knitting his brows together. He slowly asked, “Han Feng... is currently still in the ‘Black-Corner Region’ right?”

“Aye.”

Su Qian narrowed his eyes. A faint cold glint flashed past them. He firmly remembered the matter of Han Feng gathering a large group of

experts to attack the Inner Academy in his heart even now.

“Ke ke, that is even better. There are some matters that I should look for him to settle.” Xiao Yan crossed his fingers and laughed. His smile emitted threads of dense coldness. That fellow had luckily escaped back then. Now that he was able to come out from that lifeless magma area, the first thing he needed to do was naturally finish off the matter with this ‘Senior’. Otherwise, how would he account to Yao Lao who was currently in a slumber.

“Although your strength has soared greatly. It is likely a little difficult to do so by yourself.”

Su Qian shook his head and voiced his thoughts, “Han Feng has established a ‘Black Alliance’ in the ‘Black-Corner Region’. Quite a number of relatively strong factions have joined it. Currently, the number of strong people in the ‘Black Alliance’ are as numerous as the clouds. Even I have a never ending headache because of it. During the two years in which you were not around, the Inner Academy has gone to find trouble with those fellows a couple of times. However, most of them were blocked by the ‘Black Alliance’.”

“Black Alliance?” Xiao Yan knit his brows. His finger gently knocked against the surface of the table. A moment later, he finally spoke, “In that case... does First Elder not want to get back at them?”

A fierce glint flashed across Su Qian’s eyes as he spoke ferociously, “Why would I not want to? The Inner Academy’s reputation cannot worsen in my hands. Otherwise, how will I account to the headmaster when he returns in the future?”

“Ke ke, that’s good. First Elder, you should gather some people. We will head to the ‘Black-Corner Region’ in three days!” Xiao Yan’s finger paused before he stood up and laughed.

“Alright, since you are interested, our Inner Academy will join the fun!” Su Qian’s palm heavily slammed on the table as he also laughed out loud. Now that he had the participation of Xiao Yan, this extremely strong fellow, it was likely that they would be able to break the stalemate with the

‘Black Alliance’ during these two years.

“I will gather all the helpers in three days. After that, it is time to completely end our conflict with the ‘Black Alliance’!”

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded.

“However...” Su Qian appeared to have recalled something as he frowned a little. He looked at Xiao Yan and spoke, “Before this, I think that you should settle the conflict with that expert Dou Zong who has come and looked for trouble with you. Otherwise, if she comes and intervenes during that great battle... you should also be clearly aware just what kind of fighting strength a Dou Zong possesses. If she were to join the ‘Black Alliance’, we would suffer great losses even if our entire army isn’t destroyed.”

“She will definitely not join the ‘Black Alliance’.” Xiao Yan smiled as he observed Su Qian’s stern face. He sighed, “Alright, I will settle the problem with her first.”

“Do you need our help?” Su Qian hesitated for a moment before asking.

“Ke ke, relax. The presence of more people will not help the problem between her and me.” Xiao Yan laughed bitterly as he cupped his hands toward Su Qian. He said, “Since I have already accounted for most of the things, I should return first.”

“Wait.”

Su Qian mused for a moment after seeing Xiao Yan turned around. After which, he slowly said, “I think I should tell you something.”

“What is it?” Xiao Yan turned his head doubtfully.

“Your second brother is in the ‘Black-Corner Region’ right?” Su Qian’s voice had just sounded when he sensed the aura all over Xiao Yan suddenly rose. A pair of old eyes which were filled with surprise were raised as he watched the young man whose face had instantly become dark and cold.

“What has happened to my second brother?” Xiao Yan’s voice was as

cold as ice and void of any emotion.

“Currently, nothing has happened to him.” Su Qian suppressed the surprise in his heart and widened his hands. He said, “I have sent some people to quietly protect him after you had been dragged underground by the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. He was merely quietly training for the first half of the year. However, one year later he was chased into the deep mountains by some people who were after his life. It was two months later when he next appeared. At that time, his strength had suddenly and strangely soared to the Dou Wang class. I am not certain what happened to him in the deep mountains.”

“According to the information gathered, he has quietly established an extremely secretive organization within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. This organization currently has quite a strong reputation within the ‘Black-Corner Region’ because they purposefully pick members of the ‘Black Alliance to kill’. Moreover, they kill whoever they meet. Clearly, your second brother is taking revenge for you.”

Xiao Yan’s face recovered its calmness as he quietly nodded. It was good that nothing had happened to second brother.

However, his expression had just calmed down when Su Qian’s subsequent words caused it to become completely dark.

“Due to your second brother killing the members of the ‘Black Alliance’ for a long time, he has aroused the anger of the ‘Black Alliance’. According to the information I got, it seems that a few factions who are quite strong have begun encircling your second brother and his organization. It is likely that his current condition is not very good.”

At this moment, the face of the black-robed young man was frighteningly dark and cold. It even contained a faint savageness. The icy-cold voice of his contained an incomparable amount of killing intent.

“Do you have my second older brother’s location?”

# Chapter 626: Gathering Helpers

Xiao Yan's expression was somewhat gloomy as he walked out from the meeting room. He lifted his head only to see that Lin Yan was standing not far away. The gloominess on his face was slowly withdrawn as he smiled toward the latter.

"It is really unexpected that you actually remained in the Inner Academy." Xiao Yan slowly walked forward and spoke with a smile.

"Didn't I say back then that I wanted to follow you to the Jia Ma Empire?" Lin Yan smiled and shrugged his shoulders. He had become much more mature compared to two years ago. Quite a lot of his original impulsiveness had also disappeared.

Xiao Yan was startled. His face immediately became gentle as he smiled. It was really unexpected that Lin Yan had actually remembered those words back then. This caused Xiao Yan to be moved on top of being surprised.

"You can rest assured that once some of the things here are settled, I will return to the Jia Ma Empire. I will definitely bring you along at that time." Xiao Yan laughed before turning his gaze over to Lin Yan's body. He smiled and said, "Looks like you have also been doing quite well during these two years. You have even broken through to become an elite Dou Wang."

"Ugh, how can I compare with an abnormal fellow like you." Lin Yan smiled bitterly, and shook his head. Even though his training talent was quite great, he had merely reached a three star Dou Wang during these three years. He definitely felt a sense of inferiority when compared with Xiao Yan. However, he was unaware that the amount of suffering that Xiao Yan had to undergo in order to swiftly rise in strength was many times more than what an ordinary person had to face.

Xiao Yan smiled, but did not continue to be entangled in this topic.

"You are planning to go to where your second brother is next, right?" Lin Yan spoke, "I am also aware about the issue with your second brother.

This is because I was coincidentally sent by the First Elder to protect him back then. However, he discovered me after his strength had soared and we nearly exchanged blows.”

“What is my second brother’s current strength like?” Xiao Yan knit his brows slightly and felt an uneasy feeling in his heart.

“Very strong. If it is one against one, I would not be a match for him. Additionally, his Dou Qi is of the lightning affinity with extremely strong offensive strength. An ordinary elite Dou Wang is no match for him. However... I kept having the feeling that his aura is somewhat strange, but I cannot quite describe it.” Lin Yan mused for a moment before speaking.

Xiao Yan nodded quietly before speaking in a soft voice, “I will make a trip to ‘Pan’s Gate’ first to take a look at Wu Hao and the others. After which, I will hurry to the ‘Black-Corner Region’.”

“Ke ke, this time around, you might need to bring along some helpers.” Lin Yan smiled and spoke, “According to our information, those factions that have gone to encircle your second brother this time around are all extremely strong. There are at least three people among them who are elite Dou Wangs. Moreover, there is also one Dou Huang. Although your strength is currently extremely strong, as long as the Dou Huang is able to delay you for a moment, it is likely that the other three expert Dou Wangs will be able to kill your brother within a short amount of time.”

Xiao Yan was slightly startled. He mused for a moment before nodding. He would naturally not try to be brave since the matter concerned his second brother but...

“Where can I go and gather helpers? The Elders within the Inner Academy need to prepare for the big battle with the ‘Black Alliance’. It is likely that they wouldn’t be able to lend a hand.” Xiao Yan was somewhat troubled as he replied.

“Have you forgotten about ‘Pan’s Gate’? Currently, Wu Hao and Hu Jia are all at the peak of the Dou Ling class and are even experts who have half a foot in the Dou Wang class. Moreover, other than the two of them, there are at least ten people within ‘Pan’s Gate’ who are experts at the

peak of the Dou Ling class. This is quite a great strength. Moreover... there's still that 'Brute-Force Queen'. Additionally, I am also free during this period of time. If we gather all this strength, it is sufficient to contend with a first tier faction within the 'Black-Corner Region'." Lin Yan laughed.

"It is really unexpected that the small 'Pan's Gate' back then is already this strong now. Looks like Wu Hao and Hu Jia have managed it very well." Xiao Yan was momentarily stunned before he let out an emotional sigh. Back then, when he was dragged underground by the 'Fallen Heart Flame', it seemed that the 'Pan's Gate' did not even have one peak Dou Ling. Now, it was actually this strong.

"It is not overboard to call this little foundation as the strongest faction within the Inner Academy. Of course, Xun Er and your influence enabled 'Pan's Gate' to have its current strength which cannot be matched by anyone." Lin Yan smiled and said, "With your reputation within 'Pan's Gate' it is likely that there would be over a hundred hot-blooded people who would charge with you into the 'Black-Corner Region' to rescue people with just a wave of your hand. Your existence is just like a god in their hearts."

Xiao Yan rubbed his head. He felt somewhat strange that he was able to possess such a reputation after having been missing from the Inner Academy for these past two years.

"That's right. Among those factions that have gone to encircle your second brother, one of them is your old enemy, the 'Blood Sect'. That so-called expert Dou Huang, Fan Lao, from back then." Lin Yan appeared to have suddenly recalled something as he spoke.

"Fan Lao?" Xiao Yan was slightly startled. A cold smile slowly surfaced on the corner of his mouth as he spoke, "It's just as well. He was lucky to have escaped back then. Let's see if he has such good fortune this time around."

"Since that's the case, lead me to 'Pan's Gate' now. This matter cannot be delayed lest some unexpected changes occur."

“Yes.”

.....

Pan's Gate.

Numerous gazes that were filled with a wild heat and reverence were staring intently at the smiling black-robed young man in the spacious hall. Some of the old members of 'Pan's Gate' from back then had even reached the limit of their excitement.

“Ke ke, everyone. Chief says that he need some helpers. Anyone who knows they have reached the qualifications and have the courage to follow us to roam the 'Black-Corner Region' can step forward.” Wu Hao watched the black masses of human heads in the full hall as he spoke with a smile.

“Bang!”

An orderly sound of footsteps suddenly sounded in the hall. Dozens of human figures strode forward with excited faces.

Even with Xiao Yan's mental strength, he could not resist feeling somewhat moved as he watched the human figures who had stepped out in unison without even the slightest hesitation. A gratified feeling slowly climbed out from within his heart.

“Fourteen people at the peak of the Dou Ling class. The remainder are all expert Dou Lings. How is it? Enough?” Zi Yan glanced at those people who had stepped forward before turning her head to speak to Xiao Yan.

“Yeah, it's sufficient.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He patted Zi Yan's head and spoke with a smile, “You still have not grown up after not having seen you for two years. Ke ke, rest assured that I will help you refine a true 'Body Transformation Pill'. At that time you will be able to transform your body as you please.”

The face of Zi Yan, who was originally unhappy after hearing those initial words, immediately became joyful upon hearing the remainder of Xiao Yan's words. Although the two years did not hinder the growth in her strength, this young body of hers had caused her some headaches.

“This is much better. You have been missing for two years and also caused me to eat two years of awful medicinal ingredients. Treat this as compensation.” The little girl purposefully acted old as she patted Xiao Yan’s arm. Those gem-like pupils were filled with a smile that was extremely cute.

Xiao Yan smiled, lifted his head and studied the human figures in the hall, who had faces filled with excitement. He smiled and said, “I, Xiao Yan, shall not say any unnecessary words. Once we settle everything and return, I will definitely drink with everyone!”

Everyone in the hall parted their mouths and smiled when they heard Xiao Yan’s words. Although Xiao Yan had been missing for two years, his reputation had been brewed with time until it became increasingly mellow. It even reach the point that as long as they thought that the true leader of ‘Pan’s Gate’ had appeared, their bodies would be filled with fighting strength.

“Let’s go!”

Xiao Yan’s gaze looked around the hall before suddenly waving his hand a moment later. He lead the way and strode out of the main entrance. A large unit followed closely behind him with fanatical expressions.

It was natural that quite a big commotion was created when such a large group walked within the Inner Academy. Quite a number of people cried out in surprise when they saw the black-robed young man leading the huge group. Clearly, they had already recognized the identity of the latter.

Xiao Yan ignored the varying gazes from around him. He and his group rushed to the exit of the academy. After passing through the dense forest, they could see that the hidden spacial door had already been opened. Low griffin roars sounded repeatedly from the outside.

“There are already over ten griffins waiting outside. They will fly all of you to your destination.” Lin Yan’s figure suddenly flashed and appeared, while Xiao Yan was feeling somewhat surprised. The former smiled and spoke to everyone, “These were all prepared for us by the First Elder.”

Xiao Yan was startled. It seemed that Su Qian was also clearly aware

about him gathering helpers. Originally, one was not allowed to use the people from the Inner Academy to settle a personal matter according to the rules. However, seeing Su Qian's meaning, it was obvious that he not only did not oppose them, but had instead given them help.

"Ke ke, Xiao Yan will definitely thank First Elder for his good intentions when I return." Xiao Yan cupped his hands toward the position of the Inner Academy before immediately waving his hand. He softly cried out, "Let's go!"

The large group rushed out in a lightning-like manner the moment his voice sounded. Finally, they disappeared outside of the large silver-colored door.

After Xiao Yan and the others disappeared, the large silver-colored door fluctuated a little before slowly becoming faint and eventually disappearing.

.....

Su Qian had his hands behind him in a building deep within the Inner Academy. His gaze was looking at the exit of the Inner Academy. He softly spoke a moment later, "They have already left."

"First Elder, you allowed Xiao Yan to bring the students from the Inner Academy to the 'Black-Corner Region'. Isn't it a little..." An Elder spoke somewhat hesitantly behind Su Qian.

"Ke ke, relax. Given Xiao Yan's strength, there should not be any injuries or deaths. Moreover, it is beneficial to the students to allow them to experience some true fights to the death." Su Qian waved his hand and spoke with a smile.

That Elder could only nod his head while smiling bitterly upon hearing this. The 'Black-Corner Region' was filled with people who would not blink their eyes even when they killed.

"Inform all the Elders within the Inner Academy. Prepare to gather three days later. This time around, we must completely annihilate the 'Black Alliance'!" A stern, cold, glint flashed across Su Qian's old eyes as he

waved his hand and spoke in a cold voice.

“Yes sir!”

That Elder was also startled when he heard this. He immediately gave a deep bow of positive acknowledgement before moving his body and quietly withdrawing from the room.

The interior of the room slowly became quiet. Su Qian’s gaze flickered. A moment later, he abruptly clenched his fist tightly. His thick cold voice reverberated unceasingly in the quiet room.

“Let all grudges completely disappear this time around!”

.....

Over ten tiny black dots faintly appeared in the vast sky. A moment later those black dots gradually became larger and eventually transformed into over ten enormous griffins which whizzed past.

On top of the leading griffin, Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and observed the distant sky. He turned his head toward Wu Hao beside him and asked, “We have already entered the area of the ‘Black-Corner Region’ right?”

# Chapter 627: The Moment of Life and Death

Wu Hao nodded his head. He took out a map scroll from his storage ring and slowly pushed it open. He used his finger to point to a certain area and said, "According to our intelligence, a few large factions of the 'Black Alliance' are heading to this place. I think that your second brother should be there. According to our speed, we should be able to reach there by tomorrow morning."

Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly. He slowly calmed his somewhat anxious heart, and sat cross-legged on the griffin before shutting his eyes to recuperate.

Xiao Yan's group avoided the fatigue of traveling by ground and also the numerous troubles within the 'Black-Corner Region' due to them possessing the griffins, a beast that specialized in long distance air travel. Hence, within a night, they had already begun to approach their destination. If they had walked instead, it would have been impossible for them to reach this place within four to five days even if everything had been smooth along the way.

Xiao Yan's gaze studied the mountains in the distance covered by a faint mist while he stood atop a griffin. The uneasiness in his heart grew even more intense the closer he approached. Xiao Yan had continued feeling this uneasiness for a couple of minutes before he could no longer endure the emotion in his heart. He turned his head and spoke to Lin Yan, Wu Hao, and the others, "I will make a move first, all of you should hurry up and follow."

Wu Hao and the others were startled when they heard this. However, they did not try to stop him. Given the former's strength, it was likely that one could hardly find anyone who would cause him to suffer a loss even in the 'Black-Corner Region'. Moreover, Xiao Yan was not some little novice who had just left home. He was extremely outstanding regardless of whether it was in terms of fighting experience or other areas. Hence, Wu

Hao and the others were not worried about him. They merely reminded him to be careful out of habit.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded to Wu Hao and the others. His shoulders shook, and a pair of beautiful flame wings extended from his back. Perhaps it was because his Dou Qi had turned into a dark-green color after the merger of the 'Heavenly Flames', but the original green flame had transformed into an emerald color. At a glance, it appeared as though it was made of emerald, having an extremely beautiful appearance that caused others feel envy. This could be inferred from the envy that had appeared on faces of everyone on those griffins behind him the moment his wings appeared.

The jade-like fire wings flapped gently as Xiao Yan leaped off of the griffin's back. After a couple of immediate flaps from the wings, his body turned into a black shadow that swiftly disappeared in front of everyone's sight.

"Ke ke, looks like we need to increase our speed. Otherwise, everything might be settled by this fellow by the time we reach there." Wu Hao laughed as he saw Xiao Yan swift disappearance. With a wave of his hand, the ten plus griffins emitted an orderly low roar as they immediately flapped their large wings. Their enormous bodies rode the wind and rushed forward.

This was a mountainous region covered in complicated terrain. The enormous trees all around were like pillars supporting the sky as they penetrated the clouds. They also made it difficult for sunlight to enter, resulting in the mountains being very dark.

A large stockade stood under the cover of the enormous, dense trees in a certain spot within the deep mountains, causing this place to be quite hidden. It was difficult to find if one did not purposefully look for it.

The entire stockade was extremely quiet. However, there were quite a number of human figures who were coming and going. These black figures did not make any noise under their feet as they hurriedly rushed up and down the roads. The entire stockade was filled with an anxious

atmosphere but it did not appear to be flustered.

A human figure who was completely wrapped in a black robe was standing tall and straight at a stage in the middle of the stockade. The dense bloody aura that was emitted from this person's body was something that could be clearly smelled even from a great distance away. However, the hundred plus black figures under the tall stage seemed to have not smelled it as they stood in a quiet and orderly fashion. Other than the 'hua hua' sound that was emitted by the black clothes when the wind blew passed, there was only the extremely slight sound of footsteps.

A black figure suddenly shot over from a distance amid the quiet atmosphere. Finally, he appeared under the tall stage, and knelt with one knee on the ground. His voice was low as he reported, "Chief. According to our secret investigation, around seven or eight secret sentry posts we had in the forest have been quietly destroyed. From the looks of some of the traces within the forest, it seemed that our trail seems to have been discovered. Now, this place is no longer safe."

"Has the 'Black Alliance' finally made a move on us." The black-robed person on the tall stage spoke in an indifferent voice. He slowly raised his head as scattering sunlight landed on that young face where a deathly aura was seeping out. That appearance was actually Xiao Yan's second brother, Xiao Li!

"How many people are surrounding us this time around?" Although he had heard this news that would make one uneasy, Xiao Li's face did not even change a little. He was emotionless as his eyes swept over the black figures below while he spoke indifferently.

"There are at least two hundred people. All of them have quite a great strength. Moreover they cooperate with each other quite well." The black figure reported without any hesitation.

"Who is their leader?"

"I have not seen him personally, but this subordinate has found members from the 'Blood Sect' among the factions surrounding us. The worst case scenario should be that they are led by the leader of the 'Blood

Sect', Fan Lao."

"Fan Lao huh..." Xiao Li slowly narrowed his eyes. A moment later, a savage smile spread from the corner of his mouth. It seemed that third brother had quite a bit of a grudge with this old man who would not die? Back then, this fellow was also one of the top names who had participated in the attack on the Inner Academy.

"In any case, I don't have much time left. Today, I will stake my life and get him to be buried with my third brother." Xiao Li gave a dark, dense smile before immediately waving his hand gently. An indifferent voice reverberated over the entire place, "Assassination unit, hide yourself in the forest and withdraw as you fight. Try your best to weaken their fighting strength. Remember, even if you die, you must pull someone to cover you as a blanket. Otherwise, your death will be worthless."

TL: buried with does not mean physically buried with

"Yes sir!"

Nearly half the people below suddenly responded in unison. Their bodies immediately flashed, and the black figures penetrated through the shade one after another. Finally, they leaped out of the stockade and disappeared into the vast forest. They did not question their fates of imminent death. This was because anyone within this Assassination unit who questioned Xiao Li's words had already been removed. Those who could remain were basically people who had handed over their hearts and even their souls to Xiao Li.

"Everyone else will defend the stockade. Defend with all your strength!"

"Yes sir!"

The remaining people also responded in unison. Finally, their bodies flashed and entered into various dark and hidden corners of the stockade. The dark black sharp daggers in their hands slowly emitted a cold glint.

Xiao Li's gaze was cold and indifferent as he watched the black figures who had disappeared. He slowly shut his eyes and a faint death aura surrounded his body as though he was the god of death.

“Third brother, wait for second brother to pull someone down with me!”

....

Countless numbers of sharp screams were suddenly emitted from the lush green forest when morning arrived. The miserable screams reverberated over the mountains, causing one to feel a chill all over one's body.

Countless numbers of human figures filled with killing intent flashed about in the dark forest. They were just about to swiftly rush toward their target when numerous black figures suddenly shot out from the shadows of the forest. They carried a slight muffled sound of one's flesh being cut as fresh blood was spilled...

Although the sudden ambush killing caused that particular unit to suffer quite the losses, these people were clearly very experienced in combat. Hence, they were able to rely on their advantage in numbers to stabilize the situation in an extremely short amount of time. After which, both parties entered into an intense and fierce exchange...

Xiao Li, who had his eyes shut while in the stockade, suddenly opened them. He eyed those dozens of black figures who had rushed back from within the forest. These figures swiftly flashed into the stockade before they finally knelt with one knee on the ground in front of the tall stage.

“Chief, over half of the Assassination unit is dead. However, the other party's death toll is more than twice ours. This time around, the troops that have come to surround us are all the elites of a couple of large factions. Moreover, they have the help of three Dou Wangs and one Dou Huang! Our Assassination unit did not obtain the results we desired.” A dark, deep voice was emitted from the mouth of a black human figure.

Xiao Li's face was indifferent. He merely nodded slightly.

“According to their momentum, they will reach the stockade within ten minutes!”

“Spread out. Prepare to fight to the death with those who have attacked.” Xiao Li lifted his chin and spoke indifferently.

Although Xiao Li had ultimately not said anything about withdrawing, not one of these wood-like black human figures said anything. All of them completely did as they were ordered.

Xiao Li lifted his gaze as he watched those human figures who had begun to scatter. After which, he gazed at the distant forest as a wild savageness surged onto his face.

The actual situation was worse than reported by the black human figure. Around five minutes later, some human figures appeared from within the forest. After which, more rushed out repeatedly. Within a short couple of minutes, the entire stockade had been surrounded to the point where even water could not pass.

“You must be the leader of the organization which doesn’t even have a name right?”

Cold laughter suddenly sounded in the air above the stockade. Xiao Li lifted his head only to find four figures suspended in the air. A powerful aura wrapped around the entire stockade. The person in front was surprisingly the leader of the ‘Blood Sect’ who had nearly died in Xiao Yan’s hands back then, Fan Lao!

Xiao Li’s gaze was dense as he stared at Fan Lao in the sky. However, he did not say anything. He clenched his hand, and a long, dark-black spear flashed and appeared. Powerful silver-colored Dou Qi carried a faint thunderous roar as it wrapped around the spear.

Fan Lao indifferently watched Xiao Li who was putting up a last bit of resistance before death. The former waved his hand. “Kill him.”

A fierce glint immediately surfaced within the eyes of the three expert Dou Wangs behind Fan Lao upon hearing the order. With a low cry, the three human figures carried a powerful aura as they came rushing down explosively from the sky like meteorites. The combined strength of the three Dou Wangs even caused the air to emit a rumbling sound.

Xiao Li’s face was ferocious as he watched the three human figures who had rushed over. His grip on the long spear in his hand had become much tighter. He would not even have the slightest fear against one Dou Wang.

He might end up descending into an annoying battle against two Dou Wangs. On the other hand, fighting against three Dou Wangs would likely result in him being at a disadvantage.

Even though this was the case, Xiao Li did not even retreat in the slightest. Having not much time left, he need not even worry about his life. What else was there to fear?

“Die!”

A stern cry was ferociously released from the mouths of the three Dou Wangs. The three of them clearly cooperated very well with each other. Moreover, they were also ruthless individuals. Hence, the three of them joined hands to unleash a powerful blow as their first attack. Three powerful Dou Qi attacks flew through the sky before finally intertwining with one another like a trident that shot explosively toward Xiao Li!

“A mere Dou Wang also dares to offend the ‘Black Alliance’. You really overestimate your strength!” Fan Lao lifted the corner of his mouth. He spoke in a dark, cold manner when he saw Xiao Li, who appeared exceptionally small under the three powerful attacks.

Xiao Li’s watched the fierce attack that was rushing over with a savage gazes. His long spear quivered and a silver-colored glow soared. The sound of rolling thunder was brewed at the tip of his spear. An instant later, a lightning snake-like silver-colored Dou Qi suddenly shot out explosively before the three attacks collided heavily with one another.

“Bang!”

A loud sound appeared in mid-air. Powerful energy ripples spread out from it. While this wind spread, Xiao Li and the three experts were shaken and forced to take a couple of steps back. However, it was obvious that Xiao Li suffered a greater disadvantage. If one heard the low muffled sound from his throat, it appeared that he had suffered some slight injuries during collision.

Fan Lao’s expression had immediately become a lot darker and colder as he stood in the sky and watched Xiao Li manage to endure the attack from three expert Dou Wangs, and had clearly only suffered slight injuries from

it. His gaze was filled with malice as he watched Xiao Li taking over a dozen steps back. His body suddenly quivered before it immediately disappeared.

On the ground, Xiao Li who had just stabilized his body, did not have the time to take a breath when his expression suddenly change. Immediately, his palms habitually shot out violently in front of him body.

Fan Lao's figure strangely appeared just as Xiao Li's palm struck out. With a cold, dark laugh, his shriveled hand firmly met with Xiao Li's palm. A frightening force immediately surged out explosively!

“Grug!”

Xiao Li may be strong, but there was still an extremely large gap when compared to an elite Dou Huang like Fan Lao. It was natural that he would suffer a disadvantage in such a head on collision. Hence, he immediately spat out a mouthful of fresh blood while his legs were dragged against the ground as he was forced back. Finally, his back collided with a huge rock. The force was discharged and the enormous rock behind him was immediately filled with a countless number of crack lines. At a glance, it was about to fall apart.

Fan Lao coldly smiled as his eyes darkly glared at Xiao Li who had spat out blood. However, the former did not give the latter any time to recover. He clenched his fist, and a blood spear agglomerated in it. His hand shook immediately, and the blood spear carried a fishy scent as it rushed toward Xiao Li, whose Dou Qi within his body had become a little sluggish, in a lightning-like manner.

“You dared kill people from my ‘Blood Sect’. Today, I will break all your limbs and rear you as a blood slave!”

Due to the sluggish Dou Qi within his body, Xiao Li could only watch as the blood spear shot over to him at this moment. He did not have the slightest ability to dodge it.

“Third brother, second brother is useless and is actually unable to even drag someone down with him.”

A bitterness slowly surfaced on the corner of Xiao Li's mouth as he watched the blood spear that was swiftly magnified in his eyes. He quietly shut his eyes and muttered with a sigh, "It really seems that the heavens want to destroy our Xiao clan..."

"Chi!"

A slight thundering sound suddenly resounded in the sky just as the blood spear was about to strike Xiao Yan. Immediately, a dark-green fire wall suddenly surfaced in front of Xiao Li, causing Fan Lao's face to suddenly change drastically. That blood spear appeared to be like a snow meeting boiling oil and swiftly melted. Moreover, it even emitted waves of 'chi chi' sound.

"Who is it? Our 'Black Alliance' is performing a mission. Please do not put your nose in other people's business!"

Fan Lao's expression was dark and cold when he saw the dark-green flame which had suddenly appeared. He raised his head and cried out sternly.

"Ke ke, Sect Leader Fan, I have not seen you for two years, but you have really become more impressive. Back then, you luckily escaped with your life. I wonder if you will still be this lucky today?"

A faint laugh slowly sounded in the sky. Immediately, a black-robed human figure strangely appeared in the sky in front of numerous shocked gazes.

# Chapter 628: Withdrawal from Shouting

Xiao Li, who had shut his eyes while awaiting death, suddenly shook his entire body when the faint laugh sounded in the sky. He immediately opened his eyes, and his gaze was filled with disbelief as he stared at the tall straight-backed black figure in the sky.

“Third brother?” Xiao Li’s gaze trembled as he stared at the somewhat familiar back. His face, which did not change even a little when facing death, was at this moment filled with stunned disbelief.

“Xiao Yan? You have not died? How is that possible!”

Fan Lao turned his gaze over the instant that Xiao Yan appeared. The expression on his face immediately became still when his gaze swept over the familiar young face. Shock and fear surfaced together. At the end, a voice that had become sharp due to fear was emitted from his mouth.

“Xiao Yan? He is that Xiao Yan who defeated Fan Lao and nearly killed Medicine Emperor Han Feng?”

The three expert Dou Wangs at the side did not have any specially great reaction to Xiao Yan’s appearance. However, when Fan Lao’s sharp voice involuntarily cried out the name that reverberated like thunder in the ears of everyone within the ‘Black-Corner Region’, shock instantly swarmed up their faces as they muttered.

“Are you very disappointed that I have not died?” Xiao Yan’s figure slowly descended from the sky before appearing in front of Xiao Li. He laughed coldly toward Fan Lao before immediately turning his head to look at Xiao Li, whose face was still filled with disbelief. He smiled and spoke gently, “Second brother, do you not recognize me?”

“You... are you really Xiao Yan?” Xiao Li widened his mouth. He extended his hand in an attempt to touch Xiao Yan’s body, but he seemed to be afraid of something and ultimately did not dare to actually touch him. He seemed to be afraid that this was an illusion before his death.

Xiao Yan smiled and extended his arm to hold Xiao Li’s white hand. He

laughed softly, "Second brother, it's me. How can I easily die when the Xiao clan has such a great vengeance that needs to be repaid?"

A redness gradually swarmed onto Xiao Li's originally white face as he sensed the temperature that was transmitted from Xiao Yan's hands. His eyes trembled as he stared at Xiao Yan. The strength of his hand which was holding onto Xiao Yan's arm increased. Those eyes of his had even become red at this moment. Xiao Li had revealed this moving scene despite his cold and indifferent character. One could just imagine just how excited his heart was.

"Ke ke, second brother, I will catch up with you properly after finishing off this old dog." Xiao Yan patted Xiao Li's hand and laughed.

"Don't. That fellow is an elite Dou Huang." Xiao Li's expression changed slightly when he heard this. A glint flickered in his eyes as he said, "They are superior in numbers. I think that we should withdraw first. There's a lot more time in the future with many opportunities to take revenge. Nothing wrong must happen to you now!"

Originally, Xiao Li had long carried the will to die. If it was him alone, he would naturally not think of fleeing. However, things were different now. Xiao Yan's appearance had caused his gloomy heart, which had been shrouded by the aura of death, to be filled with the will to live. Therefore, he overturned his earlier normal behavior, and the thought of fleeing emerged from within his heart.

"Ke ke, second brother, you can rest assured. I was able to cause him to flee while being at death's door two years ago. Today, I will be able to do the same." Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. He flipped his hand, and he strangely escaped from Xiao Li's hand like a swimming fish. He smiled at the latter and his gentle voice was filled with a confidence that caused others to feel calm, "Believe me, second brother."

"Then... be careful. I will help you block the remaining three Dou Wangs." Xiao Li was startled when he saw the confidence in Xiao Yan's smile. He immediately clenched his teeth and stood up. The black-colored long spear in his hand was slammed heavily on the ground. A powerful

aura spread out from it.

“Leave all of them to me. You are currently quite badly injured.” Xiao Yan shook his head. He did not wait for Xiao Li’s protest before turning around. The smile on his face slowly turned dark and cold.

Xiao Yan flipped his hand and the large Heavy Xuan Ruler flashed out from a low grade Storage Ring First Elder Su Qian had given him. He carelessly waved the heavy ruler, and a wave of low, deep explosive sounds formed below it. Finally they completely shattered the rocks on the ground.

“Sect Leader Fan. I will take this old life of yours today!” Xiao Yan pointed the heavy ruler toward Fan Lao opposite of him. There was a laughter in his voice, but it was filled with an incomparable killing intent.

If Xiao Yan had arrived a moment later when this old dog unleashed a killing move on Xiao Li, it was likely that he would only be able to see Xiao Li’s body. This fear in addition to their earlier conflict had caused Xiao Yan’s heart to be filled with a surging killing intent. The name Fan Lao had been crossed with a blood-colored line on his must kill list.

Fan Lao’s face was volatile as he stared at the black-robed young man on the opposite side with a killing intent that spread throughout the sky. The disbelief in his heart was gradually withdrawn under this reality. It was replaced with a kind of unusual fear and fury. Back then, he was defeated by Xiao Yan’s hands. This had caused him to be ridiculed by quite a number of people in the ‘Black-Corner Region’ during these two years. This also caused the reputation of the ‘Blood Sect’ to fall greatly. All of this was caused by this fellow in front of him.

“Two of you should go and capture that injured fellow. Remember, you cannot kill him. As long as he is captured, Xiao Yan can only surrender... the remaining person should delay Xiao Yan with me. The reward if you can take his life will definitely make you extremely happy. Don’t all of you want a ‘Dou Spirit Pill’? As long as you can kill Xiao Yan this time around, your wish will definitely be granted!” Fan Lao turned his head and spoke in a dark voice to the other three Dou Wangs.

Fan Lao had a phobia from being defeated in Xiao Yan's hands back then. Therefore, it was unavoidable that he would feel uncertainty in his heart if he were to fight with Xiao Yan. This caused him to ignore his status and ask someone to help him defeat his opponent.

A hot fieriness immediately flashed across the eyes of the three expert Dou Wangs when they heard Fan Lao's words. 'Dou Spirit Pill'. This was a medicinal pill that they had coveted for a long time. However, they needed to commit an extremely great contribution to the 'Black Alliance' in order to obtain it. Although they had been acting as fighters for the 'Black Alliance' these few years, there was still quite a big gap to the needed contribution points to exchange for it.

The three Dou Wangs merely hesitated for a moment in their hearts under the strong allure of the 'Dou Spirit Pill' before the hesitation was defeated in the face of the allure. They exchanged looks with one another before fiercely nodded their heads.

Xiao Yan's gaze was densely cold as he watched the four people on the opposite side. A faint dark-green Dou Qi surged out from his body like a substance-like flame. It withered repeatedly on the surface as a powerful aura covered half of the stockade.

Fan Lao's expression changed slightly just as Xiao Yan's surging aura was about to attack. He appeared to have sensed something and lifted his head. His expression immediately became much uglier when his gaze swept over the red-dressed bewitching beauty that had unknowingly appeared in the sky. What did this woman want to do by appearing at this moment.

The person who had suddenly appeared was naturally Queen Medusa who had been following Xiao Yan. This queen, whom he had forcefully possessed, had a pair of alluring eyes that were still filled with coldness.

"This time around, who will be here to help you?" Queen Medusa's body was suspended in the air. Her cold and indifferent voice slowly reverberated through the sky.

The unwelcomed guest who had appeared also caused Fan Lao and the

others to be startled. The aura of Queen Medusa caused them to feel an uneasiness. However, a wild joy immediately filled their faces when they discovered that this mysterious strong person was against Xiao Yan. If she and Xiao Yan were to fight, they would be able to easily capture Xiao Li. At that time, Xiao Yan would naturally not dare to attack for fear of harming Xiao Li.

“Ke ke, this friend. Is your target Xiao Yan? If that is the case, we can cooperate. This fellow is extremely crafty. Just you alone might not be sufficient.” Fan Lao gave Xiao Yan a sinister smile before immediately speaking with a smile to Queen Medusa in the sky.

“You don’t have the qualification.”

Queen Medusa glanced indifferently at Fan Lao in the sky and spoke in a manner that did not give the latter any face. This also caused Fan Lao’s expression to become much uglier. Originally, he had thought that it would be the best of both worlds if they cooperated since they had similar intentions. However, it was unexpected that Medusa did not appreciate his offer.

“If you are not willing then please do as you please.” Fan Lao laughed dryly as he slowly lowered his head. A viciousness and obscenity flashed across his eyes. “Damn woman. I will definitely look for an opportunity to capture you after everything is settled, and get you to beg for mercy under my body!”

“Third brother, who is she? She seems to be after you.” Xiao Li’s face had also become somewhat ugly at this moment. The situation was originally disadvantageous to them. It was unexpected that another mysterious woman of unknown background had suddenly appeared. Moreover, it appeared that her strength was quite great.

Xiao Yan’s face sank. His gaze was like chilly ice as he stared at Queen Medusa in the sky. This gaze which did not carry the slightest emotion actually caused Medusa, who had always killed for fun, to feel an uneasy feeling. She turned her gaze aside.

However, she had just turned her gaze aside when Queen Medusa

suddenly sensed it. With her haughtiness, how could she withdraw under Xiao Yan's gaze?

"Medusa, we can settle the matter between us in the future. If you intervene today, I, Xiao Yan will force you to die here even if I risk my life to do so. If you don't believe me... you can come and try!" Xiao Yan's gaze was dark and cold. His face had a slight wildness to it. He was similarly clearly aware that if Queen Medusa were to stop him at this moment, Xiao Li would end up in the hands of Fan Lao and the others. That kind of situation... was sufficient to really cause him to become crazy.

Queen Medusa's eyebrows slowly became vertical amid Xiao Yan's words which contained a chillness. No one had dared to threatened her in all her life. Yet, these words of Xiao Yan now...

A cold glint flickered in Queen Medusa's long beautiful eyes. A moment later, those eyes suddenly turned toward Xiao Yan's face which contained traces of craziness when a killing intent was rising within her heart. She was immediately startled. An unknown emotion quietly spread out from somewhere deep within her spirit, and slowly suppressed the killing intent in her heart.

Queen Medusa knit her brows slightly as she sensed the gradually reducing killing intent within her heart. An unknown frustration quietly rose within her heart.

"Xiao Yan, remember. Your life is mine! I will take it away sooner or later!"

Queen Medusa suppressed the unusual frustration within her heart. She violently swung her sleeves and let out a cold laugh. Immediately, her graceful figure quietly disappeared amid the stunned gazes of Fan Lao and the others.

Xiao Yan was also startled for a while when he saw that Queen Medusa had really did as she was told and left. This woman who was renowned for her ferocity was actually really bothered about his threat? He had originally already made plans to really go all out...

Of course, if Xiao Yan really dared to speak these words in front of

Queen Medusa, she would definitely be infuriated given her usual character. However, the current Queen Medusa had already firmly possessed this body of hers and had merged her spirit with that of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. This kind of merger may have allowed Queen Medusa to gain the leading role but her emotions would be somewhat mixed with that of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' to a certain extent. Queen Medusa was filled with killing intent toward Xiao Yan, but the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was extremely attached to Xiao Yan. The mixture of these two was the cause of the current complicated emotions that Queen Medusa had for Xiao Yan.

While being filled with killing intent, she had difficulty really performing the killing move. This conflicting emotion was the source of the frustration within Queen Medusa's heart.

Nevertheless, Queen Medusa at least retreated after being shouted at by Xiao Yan. Next, he, without any burdens, would be able to calmly settle the old and new grudges with Fan Lao!

# Chapter 629: Reinforcements

Xiao Yan's gaze paused at the spot where Medusa had disappeared before slowly sighing in relief. His gaze shifted down and once again turned toward Fan Lao. His eyes were filled with killing intent.

"Hei, you won't gain any advantage even if that person left. I don't believe that you can block all four of us with just your strength." Fan Lao was disappointed when Medusa left. However, awe immediately surged onto his face as he sinisterly smiled.

Xiao Yan did not bother with Fan Lao who had planned to use his words to force Xiao Yan back. He shook his wrist and the heavy ruler was violently inserted into the ground. A cluster of jade-green flame slowly surfaced on his right hand like that of a ghostly fire.

Xiao Yan's left hand slowly covered the dark-green flame. His eyes, however, were shut while Fan Lao and the others were frowning.

Fan Lao and the others had no idea about this strange action of Xiao Yan. Hence, for a moment, no one dared to take the lead to attack.

After Xiao Yan tightly shut his eyes, that cluster of dark-green flame suddenly began to fluctuate a moment later. Xiao Yan pulled both of his hands apart abruptly. A moment later, Fan Lao and the others were shocked as the dark-green flame suddenly separated into two clusters of different colored flames.

Two clusters of flame. One was green in color, while the other was an invisible flame!

"'Fallen Heart Flame'? You have actually refined the 'Fallen Heart Flame'?" Fan Lao was not surprised when his gaze swept over the cluster of green flame. However, his expression immediately changed when he saw the cluster of seemingly invisible flame. His shocked voice was sharp as it sounded.

Xiao Yan indifferently stared at Fan Lao, whose expression had changed drastically. He flipped both of his hands. The newly born dark-green flame

was created from the merger of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' and the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. As long as he was familiar with the control, it would not be difficult for them to separate once again. The two kinds of flames may be weaker than the dark-green flame in terms of heat and other aspects if they were used separately, but one could multi-task and use them simultaneously for different purposes. This was most suitable in the face of numerous enemies.

“Attack! Kill him!”

The shock on Fan Lao's face gradually withdrew. An extremely rich killing intent replaced it. He clearly understood just what kind of frightening strength a person who controlled two different 'Heavenly Flames' possessed. If he continued to allow Xiao Yan to continue to train, it was difficult for him to guarantee just what kind of level he would reach. Killing Xiao Yan at this moment would undoubtedly reduce a big worry that would cause him to have difficulty sleeping and eating.

Fan Lao's cry had just sounded when his figure instantly moved. Blood-colored Dou Qi spread all over his body. The fishy stench of blood covered the entire stockade. Some of those who were weaker felt giddy upon smelling this bloody stench.

The other three Dou Wangs, who possessed great fighting experience, beside Fan Lao also instantly moved their bodies the moment Fan Lao did so. The four of them formed an encirclement from four corners and shot explosively toward Xiao Yan at the middle.

One Dou Huang, three Dou Wangs. Such a powerful lineup unleashed their attacks at the same time. The powerful aura that faintly agglomerated together was something that would make even an ordinary elite Dou Huang a little suffocated. However, it did not have the slightest use toward Xiao Yan, who could not be predicted with common sense.

“Third brother, be careful!”

Although most of the powerful pressure being unleashed was blocked by Xiao Yan, who was in front of him, some of the remnant force that seeped past him caused Xiao Li's expression to change drastically. He took two

steps back before crying out to Xiao Yan in front of him.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He narrowed his pupils and eyed Fan Lao and the three others who had approached him in the blink of an eye. The corner of his mouth moved a little, and the cluster of invisible flame on his left hand suddenly emitted a ripple.

Following the emission of a ripple by the 'Fallen Heart Flame', the four figures that shot explosively over suddenly came to a stop. Their faces were flushed red, and the Dou Qi in all of their bodies emitted some chaotic ripples because they were caught off guard. The Dou Qi in their bodies was circulated with all their might as they tried to suppress the heart flame which had appeared within their bodies without any forewarning.

The tactic the 'Fallen Heart Flame' specialized in was to summon a heart flame inside a person's body once they entered a certain distance. The strength of this kind of heart flame was completely controlled by the person casting it. If it was mild, it would have the impact of refining Dou Qi. If it was wild and violent, it would cause a Dou Qi uprising within an unsuspecting person. Moreover, the high temperature which it emitted might well completely incinerate a person from inside out if one was not careful.

The 'Fallen Heart Flame' had already been refined by Xiao Yan. The strange special effect of summoning heart flames was naturally something that he could use as he pleased. Currently, the heart flame which he had summoned when facing a strong opponent like Fan Lao was of course the kind that was wild and violent to the limit. Hence, there was a chaotic movement of Dou Qi within the bodies of Fan Lao and the other three...

It was obvious that the heart flame that Xiao Yan currently summoned was unable to incinerate an expert Dou Wang to ashes. However, it was extremely easy to scramble around and put them into disarray.

This kind of sudden disarray had a crucial impact of deciding the victor in such a battle between the strong.

Xiao Yan raised his eyes to study Fan Lao and the other three whose Dou

Qi had turned into disarray while their faces had suddenly become flushed red. The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth was slowly raised into an arc that was filled with coldness. A silver-colored glow surfaced on his feet and his body shook. He immediately disappeared from his original position in a ghost-like manner. The Heavy Xuan Ruler which was inserted into the ground in front of him had also disappeared with him...

“Chi!”

The faint sound of rushing wind suddenly appeared. A person with flushed face, who was scrambling to direct the Dou Qi in their body to suppress the heart flame, suddenly felt a chill all over his body. He raised his head, only to see a faint black line rushing over in front of him.

“Bang!”

The large black ruler cut through the air, and a hot wind came smashing down furiously from all directions. From the looks of the force, even the strong body of an expert Dou Wang would likely become seriously injured if he was smashed.

This expert Dou Wang displayed his extraordinary battle experience and agility at this moment of life and death. He forcefully endured the intense pain from the grilling of the heart flame in his body and viciously hacked the extremely large ghost head blade\* in his hand which had been dyed by an unknown amount of fresh blood. The blade was incomparably sharp. Even the air appeared to be split opened at this moment.

\*(TL: ghost head blade – a type of knife that is extremely large (shaped like a scimitar))

“Clang!”

The heavy ruler suddenly fell and smashed heavily into the ghost head blade. An incomparably powerful force surged out explosively. Under this ferocious attack, that expert Dou Wang felt his legs become weak and both of his knees violently bent to touch the hard ground. The ground shook until crack lines began spreading like a spider web.

“Bang!”

The expert Dou Wang barely blocked this heavy ruler attack that had nearly taken his life. Before he had the time to escape, a sharp wind approached like a shadow and was swung into his chest. An explosive strength suddenly erupted, kicking this expert Dou Wang until he flew for dozens of meters. Eventually, he was dragged along the ground and formed a deep scar that was dozens of meters long before he slowly came to a stop.

One ruler, one leg. Within two attacks, an expert Dou Wang was forced back after being turned into a miserable state from serious injuries. The numerous black figures within the dark shadows of the stockade could not help but inhale a breath of cold air as they watched this one-sided battle.

“This little fellow... is really becoming stronger and stronger.” Xiao Li also widened his mouth and watched the expert Dou Wang, who was instantly injured. He could not resist shaking his head a moment later. Such strength was really frightening.

Fan Lao and the other two experts Dou Wangs finally managed to suppress the writhing heart flame within their bodies during this short period of time where Xiao Yan had defeated an expert Dou Wang in a lightning-like manner. Their gaze swept toward the sluggish aura of their companion. They did not know if was dead or alive. All of their hearts sank.

“No matter whether it was in terms of speed or strength, this bastard is much stronger than he was two years ago... Moreover, he is also able to control the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ to force us to multi-task and suppress the heart flame within our bodies... Looks like it is going to be troublesome today.”

“Hao Han, the two of you should go and capture that person. I will delay him. Hurry!”

Fan Lao cried out sternly as a thought swiftly flashed within his heart. With the current situation, they must capture this person who had quite a deep relationship with Xiao Yan. Otherwise, it was likely that they would have difficulty defeating Xiao Yan even if they were to join hands.

The other two expert Dou Wangs were startled when they heard Fan Lao's cry. They immediately recovered and looked at each other. After which, they rushed in from the two sides.

“Chi!”

A rushing wind sound once again sounded in the battleground just as the two split. However, the moment the rushing wind sound appeared, Fan Lao clenched his teeth and moved his body. He appeared at a certain spot and blood-colored Dou Qi was shot explosively toward the space in front of him.

Blood-colored Dou Qi surged out explosively. An enormous black figure which was wrapped in green flame suddenly appeared. It was immediately hacked down. Under the pressure of the green flame, that blood-colored Dou Qi had instantly and completely disappeared.

“Dammit!”

Fan Lao cursed in his heart after being totally restrained by Xiao Yan's 'Heavenly Flame'. He was about to unleash another attack again to block the latter when the heart flame within his body suddenly soared at this moment. The intense pain forced him to quickly diverted some Dou Qi to suppress it.

The diversion of Dou Qi not only caused Fan Lao to divert his attention, but also resulted in his attack becoming slower and weaker.

“Bang!”

“Octane Blast!”

The opening from this slower motion naturally did not escape Xiao Yan's sharp eyes. Hence, his body flashed and he took the opportunity to hit Fan Lao's chest area. His arm trembled as he tightened his five fingers. His arm was like a heavy hammer carrying a powerful attack, that caused one to shake within one's heart, as it viciously smashed into Fan Lao's chest.

Fan Lao only had the time to form a circular blood layer on the surface of his skin at this crucial moment before Xiao Yan's fist came crashing

down. A torrential strength surged out from his fist. The former's body shot back under this fierce attack. Moreover, a mouthful of blood was involuntarily spat out from his mouth as he did so.

Xiao Yan did not give chase after sending Fan Lao flying with one punch. He turned his gaze and he immediately revealed a gloomy face as he realized the two expert Dou Wangs were only around seven or eight meters from Xiao Li.

Given Xiao Li's current injured state, his chances of victory when faced with two expert Dou Wangs was naturally extremely low. Moreover, the two expert Dou Wangs were also shocked by Xiao Yan's strength earlier. Hence, they clearly understood that it was likely that they would have to remain in this place forever if they did not capture Xiao Li!

Carrying this thought within their hearts, the two expert Dou Wangs had unleashed their strength to the maximum. Xiao Li naturally fell into a disadvantage with such strength attacking the weak.

Xiao Yan was naturally well aware of Xiao Li's disadvantage. Hence, he could not be bothered with chasing the wounded Fan Lao. His body moved and he hurriedly went to support Xiao Li. However, he had just begun to move when a fishy stench once again surged over. The pale-faced Fan Lao appeared in front of Xiao Yan in a ghost-like manner. His gaze was dark and vicious as he looked at Xiao Yan and laughed out loud, "Ha ha, Xiao Yan, so what if you are strong? As long as he lands in our hands, should we be afraid that you will cause trouble?"

The two expert Dou Wangs approached Xiao Li after Fan Lao's blocking action. Powerful Dou Qi immediately surged out. From the looks of the auras, the two people clearly intended to give a finishing blow and capture Xiao Li.

Xiao Yan's heart suddenly sank as he watched the powerful Dou Qi that the two Dou Wangs had suddenly unleashed.

"Xiu!"

The sharp sound of rushing wind suddenly appeared in the sky the instant the three people were about to make contact. Two figures

immediately rushed down and were overbearingly inserted into the area between the two expert Dou Wangs and Xiao Li just like two meteorites. A clear and loud laugh suddenly sounded.

“Ha ha, Xiao Yan, you should just finish off that old fellow. Leave these two people to Zi Yan and me.”

The sudden unexpected change caused Xiao Yan to be startled. Immediately, his tight heart slowly relaxed. Reinforcements had finally arrived in time...

Xiao Yan turned his head and his gaze slowly moved toward Fan Lao. A voice that was filled with a dark, cold killing intent caused the latter's face to instantly become white.

“Old dog, are you very happy blocking me?”

# Chapter 630: Killing Fan Lao

The reinforcements that had suddenly appeared caused Fan Lao's face to turn much paler. This was especially so when he saw Xiao Yan's dark, cold, ferocious face. His expression had become ghastly, as though it had been covered with frost.

The moment Xiao Yan had displayed two kinds of 'Heavenly Flames', Fan Lao understood that it was likely that even if the four of them were to attack together in a head on battle, it would be very difficult to defeat him. Moreover, the battle had just started when Xiao Yan had disposed of one of the expert Dou Wangs. At the same time their fighting strength was reduced, their chances of victory swiftly fell.

Hence, he had intended to capture Xiao Li alive and use him to put a leash on Xiao Yan. However, Lin Yan and Zi Yan had appeared at a crucial moment, completely dashing all of his plans. Next... he would have to face Xiao Yan's fury, which was filled with killing intent, all by himself!

"Kill everyone in the stockade!" Fan Lao suddenly recalled something while his face was white. He suddenly let out a loud cry. From the looks of the situation, he really did have to fight until death.

The few hundred people from the 'Black Alliance' who had been waiting for orders outside of the stockade suddenly gave a united earth-shaking response. Immediately, countless numbers of human figures shot out in all direction and began to unleash an attack on the stockade.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly as he saw the unceasing number of people who were swarming out from the forest. The people within this stockade were clearly the subordinates of his second brother, Xiao Li. It would not be too good if they suffered too many injuries and deaths.

"Third brother, you should finish off this old dog. I will lead people to stop those attacks from the outside!"

Xiao Li suddenly flashed down from the tall stage as the thought was lingering in Xiao Yan. With a stern roar, black figures rose from the dark shadows of the stockade. Finally over a hundred people rushed out in an

orderly fashion. In a mere instant, the originally spacious street was completely packed with people.

“Everyone, follow me!”

Xiao Li let out a deep cry and immediately took the lead to rush toward the entrance of the stockade. The large group of black figures behind him followed close behind without any hesitation. Even though they were faced with such a desperate predicament, the footsteps of these black figures did not appear to be even slightly chaotic as they orderly obeyed Xiao Li’s orders. They spread out toward different parts of the stockade.

Surprise flashed across Xiao Yan’s eyes as his gaze studied those black figures who had rushed out from the shadows. Immediately, he ceased being overly worried. Although Xiao Li was currently injured, other than Fan Lao and these few others, the large unit attacking did not have a single Dou Wang. Even though Xiao Li was injured, he should be able to easily deal with any ordinary Dou Ling.

Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze and turned it toward Fan Lao a short distance away. He smiled and his bright white teeth gained a denseness that chilled one’s heart.

“Old dog Fan. You were able to luckily escape two years ago. I wonder if you will be so lucky today?” Xiao Yan’s laughter was as cold as a chilly glow, causing a cold feeling to seep through one’s bones.

Fan Lao’s face was green after he was called old dog time and time again by Xiao Yan. However, he knew that the former was no longer that little brat from two years ago. The current Xiao Yan possessed sufficient strength to play with him in his palms.

“Xiao Yan, the grudge between us all started because of you. If you had not killed my son, I would not have formed a grudge with you!” Fan Lao’s gaze flickered. His eyes drifted in all directions without leaving a trace as he clenched his teeth and spoke.

“What is there to feel strange about your son being killed by someone while he was in this chaotic ‘Black-Corner Region’? The number of people who have died in your hands is likely many times more than those who

have died in mine.” Xiao Yan coldly laughed. He immediately lifted the heavy ruler in his hand slowly and pointed it toward Fan Lao from afar. He spoke faintly, “It is useless for us to say anything now. There is not the slightest room to reconcile the grudge between us. Today, you must die!”

“Arrogant bastard! I, Fan Lao, am not afraid of you!”

Fan Lao’s face twitched. Finally, he could not resist roaring out loud. His eyes contained a certain ferocity as blood-colored Dou Qi surged out from his body in all directions. Finally, the Dou Qi rose and transformed into an enormous bloody sea that was around thirty to forty feet wide. His figure was completely hidden within it.

“It has been two whole years, yet you are still using these same old tactics. These things are useless against me.” Xiao Yan glanced at the blood sea that was spreading over. The green flame and invisible flame in his hands were gently pressed together and the two swiftly merged, transforming into a cluster of dark-green flame.

Xiao Yan’s palm slowly tossed the dark green flame. His sleeves abruptly waved, and one could see that the cluster of dark-green flame had suddenly swelled. In a short few seconds, the dark-green flame, which was not even the size of a head, had swelled until it was two to three meters wide.

Xiao Yan’s finger supported that enormous dark-green flame as the corner of his mouth slowly lifted into a smile. He flicked his finger and the enormous dark-green flame immediately swept out in all directions like a storm.

The blood sea that spread everywhere began to churn as the dark-green flame swept out. The fishy stench swiftly disappeared and the dense blood sea had also turned thinner. The sea of blood even faintly emitted Fan Lao’s extremely furious roar.

Fan Lao was indeed really unlucky. This sea of blood attack of his was an attack that he had relied on to dominate the ‘Black-Corner Region’ and become renowned. Once it was activated, it was able to hide his body. While being in it, his Dou Qi recovery and other aspects attained great

enhancements. Back then, many experts were helplessly defeated when faced with this blood sea. However, this blood sea was just like a mouse that had seen a cat when it met Xiao Yan, who controlled a 'Heavenly Flame'. It did not have the slightest ability to resist. Although Fan Lao was also an elite Dou Huang, the fighting strength that he could unleash against Xiao Yan was likely only similar to that of an ordinary Dou Wang. It must be said that there was always something that could restrain another thing.

“Xiu!”

When the blood sea had become very thin, Fan Lao, who was inside, finally could not resist any longer. With a low roar, a five-foot-long blood spear shot out explosively. The air shook wherever the blood spear passed, and the sharp wind it created was something that could be clearly heard throughout the entire stockade.

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head as he watched the blood spear that had shot out explosively from the blood sea. He flicked his finger, and a wisp of the dark-green flame shot out from his finger. Finally, it collided heavily with that blood spear and the two were immediately and simultaneously annihilated under a loud sound.

“You really put up a stubborn resistance...” A powerful dark-green flame surged out from Xiao Yan’s body. It immediately wrapped him within it. His feet stomped heavily on the ground and his body shot into the increasingly thin sea of blood.

After Xiao Yan charged into the blood sea in such an open manner, the churning of the blood sea immediately became wild. The clear sound of metal clanging repeatedly sounded from within. A moment later, the blood sea completely disappeared with an energy ripple.

The blood sea disappeared, and the two human figures within it slowly surfaced. Xiao Yan was fine with the exception of his breathing being a little hurried. On the other hand, Fan Lao’s clothes were shattered. His palm was repeatedly dripping blood. Clearly, Fan Lao had fallen into a disadvantage during the earlier exchange.

Fan Lao's gaze was just like that of a dark, vicious snake as he stared intently at Xiao Yan while the entire stockade was filled with the sounds of killing. His heart was u. If his Dou Qi had not been restrained by the 'Heavenly Flame', he would have no problem ending up in a draw with Xiao Yan even if he could not defeat the latter. Unfortunately...

"Xiao Yan, you need not be pleased. You will not have a good ending in the future after offending our 'Black Alliance'!" Fan Lao's chest rose and fell as he spoke in a hoarse voice, attempting to perform his final struggle.

"Ke ke, sect leader Fan need not be worried. In two days time, I will naturally go to the 'Black Alliance' to settle the feud between Han Feng and myself." Xiao Yan smiled as responded, "However, this time around, sect leader Fan might have to die before Han Feng."

"Tsk tsk, Xiao Yan, I admit that I am now no match for you. However, killing me won't be so easy!" A strange smile suddenly surfaced on Fan Lao's face. The seal his hands formed suddenly changed, and a mouthful of fresh blood was immediately spat from his mouth. When the fresh blood scattered, Fan Lao's body strangely disappeared from the original spot.

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head as he watch the spot where Fan Lao had disappeared. He sighed, "He is really still using these old tactics..."

Xiao Yan's voice had sounded when a silver glow surfaced on his feet. The low sound of rumbling thunder roared across the sky as his body instantly disappeared.

The space around a hundred plus meters above the stockade suddenly fluctuated. A bloody figure surfaced and a pale face Fan Lao appeared. He watched the stockade below him which was only the size of a fist. He coughed intensely before speaking in a dense voice, "Little bastard, wait for me to gather everyone before I come to settle my account with you. I will definitely tear you into thousands of pieces at that time."

Fan Lao's voice had just sounded when a laugh suddenly sounded from behind him, causing the pores all over his body to tense up at this moment, "Ke ke, Sect leader Fan. Perhaps you may not have the chance to

return...”

Fan Lao’s body was stiff as he turned his head around with great difficulty. A young man with a warm smile hanging on his face and a cluster of dark-green flame in his hands was imprinted in his eyes!

“It’s over... sect leader Fan.”

Xiao Yan smiled. The dark-green fireball in his hand suddenly began to spin rapidly. Finally, the surrounding air appeared to be sucked into it as the fireball spun. Xiao Yan’s arm shook during the high speed rotation, and the rapid spinning dark-green fireball carried a frighteningly hot temperature as it viciously smashed into Fan Lao’s back.

At that instant, an incomparably fierce wind exploded from the fireball. Fan Lao did not have the time to form even the slightest defense against this wild, violent attack. His expression instantaneously turned pale as a mouthful of fresh blood accompanied by his shattered internal organs was spat out.

The dark-green flame also surged out as the storm erupted. It wrapped around the seriously injured Fan Lao. Immediately, a sharp miserable cry resounded in the distant sky...

The dark-green flame continued for nearly half a minute before it was gradually extinguished. However, that human figure within it had turned into a pile of ash that scattered with the wind...

# Chapter 631: Killing Spree

Xiao Yan watched the ashes that scattered with the wind indifferently, and gently shook the dust off his hands. There was not the slightest ripple in his heart. He knew that Fan Lao already possessed a must kill intent toward him two years ago. Given Xiao Yan's character, he was most afraid of allowing such a person, who possessed a vicious attitude toward him, to survive in this world. Fan Lao had luckily fled back then. This time around, however, he no longer had such good luck.

"Next should be Han Feng..." The jade-green fire wings on Xiao Yan's back slowly flapped. His gaze turned toward the northern sky. That place was the territory of the so-called 'Black Alliance'. That 'senior' of his was domineering over that place and leisurely becoming an overlord.

"You have lived quite well during these two years... but, soon..." A dark, dense smile gradually surfaced on Xiao Yan's face as he recalled the torturous pain he had felt during these two years.

The beautiful jade-green flame flapped slightly behind him. Xiao Yan's body swiftly moved closer to the ground. In merely a short moment, he was already able to hear the soul-stirring sounds of bloodshed within the stockade.

Xiao Yan's figure stood in the air, and looked down from a high vantage point and swept over the entire arena. At this moment, an extremely intense battle was occurring all over the stockade. The place with the most intense fight was naturally the two battlegrounds at the middle of the stockade. The main characters there was Lin Yan, Zi Yan, and the other two expert Dou Wangs from the 'Black Alliance'.

Xiao Yan's gaze paused on the battleground where the two people were fighting, for a moment, before he turned it away reassured. Although Lin Yan was merely able to be evenly matched with the other Dou Wang, Zi Yan's battle was basically a one-sided one. This little girl may look cute, but the frightening strength that her little fist carried when it was swung was something that even an expert Dou Wang would not dare to

underestimate. If a punch were to make contact, one would at least hurt their muscles and bones even if their arms and legs did not break on the spot. Hence, the expert Dou Wang who was fighting with her could only dodge left and right to avoid Zi Yan's attack. He was basically in a complete disadvantage. From the looks of the situation, it was likely that he would be completely defeated by Zi Yan's hand, within a short period of time at that.

Once that expert Dou Wang was defeated, Zi Yan would be able to divert herself to help Lin Yan. Therefore, the battleground on this side already had a forgone conclusion. Xiao Yan no longer needed to worry about it.

Xiao Yan's gaze turned to the intense battleground that was filled with people outside of the stockade. He knit his brows slightly. This time around, the troops from the 'Black Alliance' not only had the numerical advantage, but each and every one of them were quite strong. Even with the strength of Xiao Li's subordinates, they found it difficult to gain an advantage. Instead, they suffered serious injuries in the couple of collisions where they were outnumbered by their opponents. Although Xiao Li was unstoppable by relying on the strength of a Dou Wang, the unceasing number of people from the 'Black Alliance' had caused him to descend into a situation where he was surrounded.

"The members of 'Pan's Gate' actually all arrived..." Xiao Yan's sweeping gaze suddenly stopped on some human figures in the stockade who were not wearing black clothes. From the looks of these young faces, they were clearly the Inner Academy elites who had followed Xiao Yan out from 'Pan's Gate'.

From the looks of the situation in the battleground, it seemed that it was due to the arrival of the people from 'Pan's Gate' that caused the originally somewhat retreating front to stabilize. Despite this, however, both parties had descended into an anxious stalemate.

The large scale killing was just like a meat grinder. Both parties continued gain some injuries and death. The sound of killing and the miserable screams mixed together before soaring to the clouds. One could even vaguely hear it outside of the mountain.

“It is best for this meaningless confrontation to end as soon as possible...”

Xiao Yan frowned intently. His body flashed and rushed to the outer parts of the stockade. He cried out in a deep voice, “Fan Lao has already died. Do you all still dare to stay in this place?”

The cry was like a sudden thunder that rolled unceasingly in the sky. It even caused an echo to reverberate across the entire mountain range.

The incomparably intense battle finally gradually quietened down after Xiao Yan’s cry sounded. Numerous gazes turned toward the sky. The people from the stockade had faces filled with joy while the troops from the ‘Black Alliance’ outside were displaying panicking faces. Fan Lao was the strongest person in this unit. His death was quite a great blow to the morale of these people.

“Everyone, don’t believe him. Sect leader is an elite Dou Huang. How could he have died in the hands of this sapling?”

A loud cry suddenly sounded just as all the people from the ‘Black Alliance’ were feeling uneasy in their hearts. A large number of voices sounded in agreement. From the way they addressed Fan Lao, it seemed that they were members of the ‘Blood Sect’.

The troops from the ‘Black Alliance’ gradually became quiet after hearing the loud cry by the members of the ‘Blood Sect’. They immediately turned their fierce gazes toward the interior of the stockade. The sharp weapons in their hands were raised and had actually become a little eager for battle.

Xiao Yan’s face sank slightly when he saw the reaction from the troops of the ‘Black Alliance’. He flapped the wings on his back and he was shockingly on top of a wooden pillar at the outermost part of the stockade the next time he appeared. He flipped his hand and an invisible flame curled up. A voice that did not carry the slightest bit of emotion slowly resounded in this area.

“If you do not want to lose your life, you should leave as soon as possible. Go home and tell Han Feng that I, Xiao Yan, have already taken

Fan Lao's life. Next, it's his turn!"

"Xiao Yan?"

"He is that Xiao Yan who had defeated Medicine Emperor Han Feng back then?"

The troops from the 'Black Alliance' throughout the mountains emitted waves of shocked cries when they heard Xiao Yan mention his name. Xiao Yan's name was already something that was known by everyone within the 'Black-Corner Region'. The results of that great battle two years ago was something that even these people, who licked blood from their knives and hacked at people's flesh all day, to feel extremely shocked.

Those troops from the 'Black-Corner Region,' who had once again become eager for battle, felt some of their fierce fire extinguish after hearing this name which contained quite a bit of weight within the 'Black-Corner Region'. They looked at one another, and did not dare to charge forward.

"Everyone, don't listen to him speak nonsense. Xiao Yan was killed by the Jia Nan Academy's 'Heavenly Flame' back then. How can he still exist in this world? Everyone, hurry up and destroy the stockade. The Alliance Head will have a rich reward waiting for us when we return."

There was another loud cry which lit the fuse just when all the people from the 'Black Alliance' could not make up their mind. Hearing that the Alliance Head would reward them, the breathing of those people who were still hesitating became rough and heavy. They clearly understood just how rich Han Feng's reward was.

"Kill!"

The troops from the 'Black Alliance,' who treated killing people like eating a meal, were finally unable to resist any longer under the allure of this rich reward. Hence, their bodies came from all directions as they swarmed toward the stockade like a torrent while carrying a killing cry.

"Seeking your own death!"

Xiao Yan finally ceased wasting his breath as he observed the 'Black

Alliance' troops, who were still not desuaded. He let out a cold laugh before slowly shutting his eyes. The invisible flame on his hand emitted waves of ripples that were difficult to discover.

The human figures came swarming over explosively from all directions. However, their bodies suddenly stiffened just as they entered a fifty meter radius of Xiao Yan. Their faces were flushed red. Even their heads emitted a white fog that was curling up.

“Bang!”

The fluctuation of the invisible flame within Xiao Yan's hand became increasingly intense. Immediately, the body of the 'Black Alliance' human figure, who had charged right at the front, strangely transformed into a cluster of flame. His entire being turned into a pile of ashes at that instant. He did not even have the time to emit a miserable cry...

“Bang! Bang! Bang!”

Others sounds quickly followed one after another not long after the first low, deep sound appeared. Each time a low voice sounded, the troops from the 'Black Alliance,' whose bodies were filled with a killing intent, would strangely transform into a flaming person. Finally, they would erupt into ashes that spread all over the ground with a bang...

After these strange, low, deep explosions sounded twenty to thirty times, the 'Black Alliance' troops whose faces were filled with a killing aura and fierceness finally felt a fear. Their gazes swept all over the place, afraid that the next person who would transform into a flaming person was himself or the person beside him.

The entire area, whether it was inside or outside the stockade, had become quiet under that strange situation where one would explode into ashes without any forewarning.

Numerous gazes that contained shock and terror gathered onto the black-robed, young man who was standing on a wooden pillar at the entrance of the stockade with his eyes shut. Those human bodies that suddenly incinerated one after another was clearly his work.

“This little fellow... this attack is a little too terrifying...” Xiao Li gently inhaled a breath of cool air. This killing technique, that killed without anyone realizing how, was something that caused even him to feel a chill in his heart.

Xiao Yan opened his cold and indifferent eyes after appearing to have sensed the focus of the entire place. A faint cold glint flashed past his gaze as he stared at the troops from the ‘Black Alliance,’ who were as stiff as boards.

“Bang!”

The body of a man who was wearing a bloody robe suddenly trembled when Xiao Yan’s gaze looked over. His face was immediately flushed red, and a flame surged out from his body. His entire person strangely turned into a pile of ashes amid a low, deep sound.

The legs of the troops from the ‘Black Alliance’ trembled repeatedly as they eyed the man who had turned into ashes without any forewarning. This kind of ability that could kill someone without even moving his hand was really too frightening...

“Bang!”

Another low, deep sound appeared. A bloody-robed human figure was also strangely incinerated. At this moment, some people finally realized that those people who were incinerated seemed to be people from the ‘Blood Sect’. These people were the ones who had shouted most fiercely among those who had lit the fuse earlier.

Xiao Yan’s face was impassive. He did not bother about the pressuring feeling that this strange death brought to everyone. His cold eyes slowly moved in all directions. There was one person who turned into a flame each time his gaze paused for more than a couple of seconds.

Everyone’s heart beat violently under the sound of this seemingly pressing drum of death. A moment later, there was finally some people who could not endure such pressure of death. After emitting a crazy cry, they turned around and miserably fled into the forest.

The moment the first person turned around and fled wildly, it immediately triggered a chain effect throughout the entire mountains. Hence, those troops from the 'Black Alliance,' who had been prepared to destroy the stockade after being lured by the rich reward, began to flee in defeat...

No one could remain calm in the face of human bodies being strangely incinerated. The special ability of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' in controlling one's heart flame was really something that was hard to prevent. This was definitely a supernatural phenomenon in the eyes of those who were uncertain of the actual reason.

Xiao Yan finally sighed in relief in his heart as he watched the large panicking unit flee into the forest without choosing their routes. The invisible flame in his hand also gradually disappeared. He turned his head over and saw the somewhat stunned Xiao Li above the walls surrounding the stockade. He could not help but smile. The earlier coldness had completely disappeared.

Seeing Xiao Yan smile, those people on the walls whose bodies still felt cold, finally recovered. When they saw the large unit from the 'Black Alliance' scattering in defeat, a thunder-like roar immediately resounded across the entire stockade.

# Chapter 632: Life Devouring Pill

The pressure on the mountain stockade was immediately reduced when the troops from the 'Black Alliance' scattered in defeat. The large intense battle had ended in an anticlimactic way with Xiao Yan's imposing pressure. It must be said that the strength of a 'Heavenly Flame' was really too terrifying.

Of course, to be precise, it was the special effect of this 'Fallen Heart Flame' to summon heart flames that was too terrifying. The moment he summoned the heart flame against an opponent who was stronger or similar in strength as him, he might not be able to cause them to self-ignite, but he would be able to distract while they attempted to suppress it. This way, their fighting strength would be slightly weakened. If he were to meet an opponent who was much weaker than him, the heart flame would become the lock that took their lives. Those people from the 'Black Alliance' who self-ignited and turned into ashes were the best example.

The threat to the stockade was resolved as the troops from the 'Black Alliance' scattered in retreat. Many black figures flashed and appeared from the stockade, and began to clean up the messiness following the great battle.

Xiao Yan, Xiao Li, Zi Yan, and the others were sitting in a large hall in the middle of the stockade. Although everyone was to some extent a little tired, this was all suppressed by their excitement from that intense big battle earlier.

"I didn't expect you to be so vicious. You actually really did finish off Fan Lao. He was an elite Dou Huang. If this news were to spread, it would likely cause the 'Black-Corner Region' to shake violently." Lin Yan was stunned for quite a while after hearing the news that Fan Lao was killed by Xiao Yan before he finally smacked his lips and spoke.

Xiao Yan smiled, but did not continue to be entangled with this topic. He cupped his hands to everyone and said with a smile, "Xiao Yan thanks everyone here for the favor this time around. If there is an opportunity in

the future...”

Xiao Yan had yet to finish speaking when Lin Yan interrupted, “We have already known each other for so long. Forget about these boring words. If I meet any trouble in the future, I will come and look for you even if you didn’t open your mouth.”

Xiao Yan was dumbfounded before he immediately smiled and nodded his head. This fellow’s character was as straightforward as it had always been.

“Hey, Xiao Yan, I have also contributed a lot. You better not forget.” When Zi Yan at the side saw that Xiao Yan had only thanked Lin Yan, she immediately muttered unhappily.

“Relax, little girl. I will not forget your ‘Body Transformation Pill’.” Xiao Yan patted Zi Yan’s head as he smiled and flattered Zi Yan until she smiled.

“I don’t think I need to be that polite to the both of you right?” Xiao Yan turned his gaze toward Wu Hao and Hu Jia at the side and spoke with a smile.

The two of them smiled and nodded. Including these two years, the three of them could be considered old friends. From not seeing eye to eye back in the day to the day they had joined hands to establish a faction like ‘Pan’s Gate’, the friendly feelings between the three had grown increasingly mellow. Wu Hao was a little stiff when dealing with issues, but it was extremely difficult for him to be disloyal once he recognized someone as a friend. Hu Jia was very clever, and was also a genuine person who did not hide her feelings. Her relationship with Xiao Yan was similarly quite good. Hence, she did not mind those meaningless words of thanks.

Everyone thanked one another before Xiao Yan finally turned his gaze toward Xiao Li who was in the leader’s seat in the hall. Due to them being pressed for time earlier, Xiao Yan did not observe Xiao Li in detail. Now that he had quietened down and took a look, his eyebrows had also become slightly knit together.

The two years had added some coldness to Xiao Li's face. However, the faint death aura that lingered between his brows was extremely obvious in the eyes of someone like Xiao Yan whose Spiritual Strength was extremely strong.

"Second brother, what happened to you during these two years?" Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment before involuntarily opening his mouth to inquire.

Xiao Li's face, which was originally smiling as he watched Xiao Yan converse with his friends, suddenly became dull when he heard this question. His smile was also slowly withdrawn as he became silent.

The originally somewhat joyous atmosphere of the large hall gradually quietened down following Xiao Li's silence. Everyone looked at the expression of the former before looking at each other's eyes. All of them had some doubt. Finally, Hu Jia, who was more sensitive as a female, gave Wu Hao and the others a look with her eyes before quietly withdrawing from the hall. She even gently shut the door when she left.

Xiao Yan's gaze watched the silent Xiao Li intently. He did not open his mouth to stop Lin Yan and the others from leaving. From the death aura that was lingering over Xiao Li's brows, it was as though he was a person whose death was imminent. This kind of situation did not allow for the slightest negligence on Xiao Yan's part.

After a long while under Xiao Yan's continuous tense gaze, Xiao Li finally let out a long sigh. He revealed a bitter smile toward Xiao Yan and slowly said, "Xiao-yan-zi, you are the most outstanding person in our Xiao clan. Before I arrived, big brother had told me that I can die but you cannot! I do not have the slightest disagreement with this point."

Xiao Yan's face twitched slightly. Even with his mental strength, his nose could not resist the urge to turn sour at these words.

"After I had learned of your death in the Jia Nan Academy back then, I had wanted to directly go and find those people who had participated in the sneak attack to engage them in an all out fight because of the great vengeance of the Xiao clan." Xiao Li recalled the despair and craziness in

his heart when he learned of the news. His fist involuntarily tightened. "If you were to really die, it was likely that the Xiao clan would be completely destroyed."

"I have endured this despair for around two months or so before I finally suppressed the impulse to go and find these fellows to fight within my heart. Since you were no longer around, the burden could only be carried by second brother."

"However, I knew that given my training speed, it is likely that I would not be able to achieve the strength that is able to take revenge on the Misty Cloud Sect in the foreseeable future. However, it was fortunate that the Heavens do not leave one with a path that leads to a dead end. Around half a year after the news of your death had been spread, I had fled into the deep mountains while being chased. By chance, I obtained something."

A fiery heat suddenly surged into Xiao Li's eyes when he spoke until this point. Xiao Yan's emotions had also become slightly tensed. He could sense that the reason for his second brother turning into this manner must be due to the thing that he had obtained.

"Among the things that I obtained, there was one bottle of medicinal pills with two red-colored medicinal pills within it. According to the information that was written on the bottle, this kind of medicinal pill was able to forcefully raise the strength of someone who was around the Da Dou Shi class all the way to the Dou Wang class. However...

Once such a medicinal pill is used, one could only maintain one's life for three years. In other words, this medicinal pill basically used all of one's remaining life to exchange for a Dou Wang strength for three years!"

A giddiness suddenly swarmed into Xiao Yan's head. He churned all the memories in his mind before finally finding a medicinal pill that was similar to the one that Xiao Li had just mentioned.

"Life Devouring Pill!"

Xiao Li was also somewhat surprised by Xiao Yan's ability to call out the name of this medicinal pill which had long been lost on the continent. However, he finally nodded his head.

Xiao Yan immediately sat weakly in his chair when he saw Xiao Li nodded. He scratched his head with both his hands. His face was dark and gloomy. This medicinal pill was something that Yao Lao had mentioned to him during their travels. Even his voice was filled with endearment and admiration when he spoke of this kind of medicinal pill.

‘Life Devouring Pill’. It was a medicinal pill that had once shook the entire continent many years ago. It could be considered to be at the peak of the seventh tier. The creator of this kind of medicinal pill was an alchemist grandmaster who possessed quite a great reputation. The most frightening aspect of this medicinal pill was that it was able to create many expert Dou Wangs!

One could imagine, just how willing people would be when this one pill was able skip all of the tribulations of training they had to undergo in order to climb to this level. Although this kind of temporarily borrowed strength was obtained by squandering one’s life, which of those people who could truly rely on normal training to reach the Dou Wang class did not have outstanding training talent? How could this talent be something that everyone possessed?

Hence, it aroused the craziness of a countless number of people the moment this kind of medicinal pill was born. Some of the first rate factions in the continent possessed an extreme greed for it. After all, whoever was able to obtain it might be able to create expert Dou Wangs. Just think, who could defeat a faction if it had a thousand or a ten thousand Dou Wang army?

However, this kind of craziness did not continue for long before it was gradually annihilated. This was because the alchemist who created the ‘Life Devouring Pill’ had disappeared overnight along with the medicinal formula for the ‘Life Devouring Pill’.

There were still some people who did not give up and looked for him everywhere during the short period after he disappeared. However, as more time passed, the craziness that had shook the entire continent gradually calmed down. That so-called ‘Life Devouring Pill’ had gradually disappeared in the long river of time. It even reached the extent that it was

foreign to many alchemists today. Had Yao Lao not occasionally told him pertinent information, it was likely that even Xiao Yan would not know some of these secrets of the alchemist world from a long time ago.

Of course, the current Xiao Yan did not have the mood to bother about just how great the 'Life Devouring Pill' was. He only knew that it had nearly been two years since Xiao Li consumed the medicinal pill. In other words, it meant that he only had around one year left to live!

Xiao Yan's expression was a little pale. His eyes were filled with threads of blood. A moment later, he could not resist raising his head and crying out angrily, "You clearly know that this thing overdrafts your life in exchange for strength. Why did you eat it?"

Xiao Li helplessly shook his head in the face of Xiao Yan's angry voice. He said, "You had already died. What else could I do? If I didn't do this, just how many years later would it be before I could avenge you?"

Xiao Yan was startled before he immediately came to a sudden understanding.

"Ke ke, you need not be too worried. You being alive is the best thing that can happen. Second brother is not important. The Xiao clan can only rely on you!" Xiao Li smiled as he looked at Xiao Yan's dispirited face. He patted the former's shoulders and mused for a moment. With a flip of his hand, a somewhat strange and transparent bottle appeared in his hand.

He carefully placed the bottle on the table. Xiao Li looked left and right before suppressing his voice and said, "Third brother. This is that so-called 'Life Devouring Pill'. This may well be the last one in the entire continent."

Xiao Yan was slightly startled. He turned his head over and immediately focused his gaze on the blood-colored round medicinal pill within the jade bottle!

# Chapter 633: Medicinal Formula

The medicinal pill was entirely blood-red, and was around the size of a dragon's eye. This medicinal pill appeared extremely strange. At a glance, it seemed to be like a transparent body that was filled with blood. There was a bloody dark-red glow at the middle of the medicinal pill. The pill was just like a tiny eye at a glance and its entire body emitted a strange feeling.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the blood-red medicinal pill. With the help of his outstanding Spiritual Perception, he appeared to be able to faintly sense that this medicinal pill had some differences from an ordinary item. However, he was unable to identify the areas where it was different. Regardless of what it was, this 'Life Devouring Pill' was the highest tiered medicinal pill that Xiao Yan had seen in many years!

"Teacher had mentioned that when a medicinal pill had reached a certain tier, it would possess some spirituality. I wonder if it is also the case for this 'Life Devouring Pill'?" A thought flashed across Xiao Yan's heart. He carefully picked up the bottle and his gaze swept over the bottle's mouth only to be slightly startled. A certain kind of energy trace was drawn on the bottle's cap. If one took a more careful look, it seemed that it had some sort of sealing effect.

"It is indeed worthy of being a peak tier 7 medicinal pill. It is unexpected that even the thing used to store it must use energy to suppress it. From the looks of it, what teacher mentioned is true." Xiao Yan knit his brows slightly, but did not take the medicinal pill out of the bottle. A medicinal pill of such tier could not be randomly taken out. Otherwise, it would bring about some unusual phenomenon.

"Is there any other thing second brother obtained with the medicinal pill?" Xiao Yan held the bottle as he lifted his head and asked Xiao Li.

Xiao Li was startled when he heard this. His gaze immediately began to look all around him cautiously. After which, he nodded and took out a blood-red scroll from his storage ring. The scroll had a faint red glow

seeping out from it. Moreover, there was not a single spot on its entire body to open it. The entire thing was just like a tight jade pole.

“This is something that I obtained together with the pills, but I was unable to open it.” Xiao Li handed over the blood-colored scroll to Xiao Yan as he spoke with a frown.

Xiao Yan swiftly put down the jade bottle in his hand and received the scroll. He placed it on his hand and examined it for a long while. Finally, he gently exhaled and voiced his thoughts, “If I am not mistaken, this should be the medicinal formula for the ‘Life Devouring Pill’.”

Xiao Li’s expression did not change much when he heard this. He had vaguely guessed something similar when he had obtained the medicinal pills back then. However, he was simply not too certain.

Xiao Li’s heart became boiling hot when he heard Xiao Yan’s confirmation. He licked his tongue and used an extremely soft voice to speak, “If this is really the medicinal formula for the ‘Life Devouring Pill’, our Xiao clan might have the hope of prospering. Being able to create dozens of expert Dou Wangs. That Misty Cloud Sect would be nothing!”

Xiao Yan mused for a moment before he immediately shook his head and said, “Difficult... even if this ‘Life Devouring Pill’ can overdraft one’s life to obtain three years of Dou Wang strength, it is also at the peak of tier 7 medicinal pills. How could it be so easily refined? It is likely that there is hardly anyone in this continent who could create such tier 7 medicinal pills in mass quantities.”

Yao Lao had to put in all his effort in order to luckily refine the tier six medicinal pill, ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ successfully back then, much less this ‘Life Devouring Pill’ which could be considered among the top within the seventh tier. Forget about the issue of whether it was possible to find sufficient medicinal ingredients. Even if one managed to find them, just refining a tier six medicinal pill already brought about such an unnatural phenomenon. If one were to refine a tier seven medicinal pill, would the Heavens not send down lightning that would destroy both the person and the pill?

Moreover, even if the lightning did not kill, would the person not be even more unlucky if it attracted the attention of some strong people?

In the current Dou Qi continent, alchemists who could refine a medicinal pills at the peak of the seventh tier were already existences as rare as a phoenix feather and unicorn horn. Perhaps, even the current Yao Lao would be hard pressed to refine it, unless he recovered his peak strength...

Even with Xiao Yan's current strength, which had just surged greatly, and the fact that he controlled the 'Fallen Heart Flame', his chances of successfully refining this 'Life Devouring Pill' might not even reach ten-percent. Moreover, it would undoubtedly be an extremely foolish decision if he were to hand the medicinal formula to an alchemist who had the ability to refine this kind of medicinal pill. Hence, attempting to rely on this 'Life Devouring Pill' to create dozens of expert Dou Wangs was definitely something that was not possible.

Xiao Li also awoke from his illusion somewhat disappointed when he heard Xiao Yan's words. He helplessly sighed and said, "You should keep this thing. I am not an alchemist, so it won't be much use for me to hold onto it."

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He did not reject it. It was indeed unsuitable to place this kind of hot potato in Xiao Li's hands. Xiao Yan flicked his finger gently on the scroll. A moment later, he spoke with a solemn expression, "You must not mention this 'Life Devouring Pill' or its medicinal formula to anyone. Otherwise, there will be quite a lot of trouble if it is leaked."

"Relax, I am not an impulsive person. During these two years, there is no one else, other than you and I who know about this." Xiao Li smiled as he replied. He pointed toward the jade bottle on the table and said, "You should also take the last 'Life Devouring Pill' with you. It no longer has any use to me."

Xiao Yan hesitated a little before taking it. He voiced his thoughts, "I will find some time to study this 'Life Devouring Pill' and its medicinal formula to find a method to overcome it within a year in order to remove

this thing from you.”

Xiao Li smiled indifferently at this. “All is well as long as you are alive. It doesn’t matter if I am around or not.”

Xiao Yan rolled his eyes at Xiao Li’s words. He stood up and said, “I will return to the Jia Nan Academy now. Two days later, I will finish the matter with Han Feng.”

“Han Feng?” Xiao Li’s brows were knit tightly when he heard this name that was known to everyone in the ‘Black-Corner Region’. He said, “You want to look for him? That fellow is a true elite peak level Dou Huang. Moreover, he has the help of one kind of ‘Heavenly Flame’. He would have the ability to fight even if he met an ordinary Dou Zong. Isn’t it too great a risk for you to find him? Moreover, the ‘Black Alliance’ has as many strong people as there are clouds. You...”

“Ke ke, you need not worry. There may be many strong people within the ‘Black Alliance’ but there are also quite a number of strong people within the Jia Nan Academy. This time around, we are acting together, and it is not just me alone.” Xiao Yan waved his hand and said. “Moreover, that Han Feng may have a ‘Heavenly Flame’, but so do I. Moreover, I have more than him.”

“What is your exact strength right now?” Xiao Li weighed Xiao Yan up and down before suddenly asking.

“I should be at the peak of the Dou Wang class and should not be far from breaking through to become a Dou Huang.” Xiao Yan smiled. He had exaggerated a little in order to reassure Xiao Li. He may currently be at the peak of the Dou Wang class but he had yet to truly control the strength at this level. Unless there was some special situation, he still required a period of time before he could once again advance to a Dou Huang.

“A gap of an entire class...” Xiao Li frowned. He wanted to say something, but when he saw Xiao Yan’s smiling face, he immediately recalled the matter of Fan Lao dying in his hands. Only then did he slowly nod his head and said, “Be careful. Additionally, it would be best that you bring me along this time around. I should not be a burden to you given my

current strength.”

“Ke ke, I would also be worried if I left you in the ‘Black-Corner Region’. Second brother, you should straighten out the situation. I will bring you to the academy to stay for two days.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He placed the ‘Life Devouring Pill’ and its medicinal formula into his storage ring before turning around and walking out of the hall.

Xiao Li usually acted resolutely and quickly. Therefore, in less than an hour, he had completely settled everyone. Although some members had died during that great battle earlier, there were still nearly a hundred people. Although this could not be compared to a big faction like the ‘Blood Sect,’ it was not considered to be a weak strength within the ‘Black-Corner Region.’

Xiao Yan did not hesitate much after everything was settled. Over ten griffins were fully loaded with people before they flapped their wings and flew high in the sky, carrying a large group as they once again flew back to the Jia Nan Academy.

Due to some reason, Xiao Yan was able to get Xiao Li to settle his subordinates in Jia Nan City outside of the academy. They stayed there while Xiao Li alone was brought Jia Nan Academy’s Inner Academy.

There was some commotion when Xiao Yan and the others returned. This commotion became especially apparent when some of those members of ‘Pan’s Gate’, who had participated in the big battle, spread news that sect leader of the ‘Blood Sect’, Fan Lao, was killed by Xiao Yan. The entire Inner Academy became embroiled. An elite Dou Huang was a height that they could only look up to. However, such an expert did not even leave behind a corpse in Xiao Yan’s hands.

Of course, Xiao Yan was naturally unconcerned about the commotion that he had aroused within the Inner Academy. He went to look for First Elder Su Qian after he returned to the Inner Academy. The latter also felt surprised at Xiao Yan killing Fan Lao. However, he did not appear too shocked. He clearly understood just how frightening Xiao Yan’s fighting strength was given that he was in control of two kinds of ‘Heavenly

Flame’.

Although it was somewhat against the rules for Xiao Yan to bring Xiao Li into the Inner Academy, Su Qian quietly agreed to it. After all, the former’s status was currently something that an ordinary student couldn’t hope to compare to. Xiao Yan, who possessed two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flames’ was someone that even he did not dare to easily underestimate.

Therefore, after admonishing him a little, Su Qian released Xiao Yan. He even specially reminded Xiao Yan about the big activity two days later.

This large activity was something that Xiao Yan also felt great anticipation for.

Two days flew by in his anticipation. The sky on the second day had just become bright when some students sensed that the atmosphere within the Inner Academy was not quite right. Only when they saw the human figures that flew up into the sky from all over the Inner Academy did they finally come to an understanding. It looked like the Inner Academy was intending to do something big...

The students in the Inner Academy had seen quite a number of such big occasions during these past two years. Each time the strong people from the Inner Academy moved, they would definitely go and find trouble with those fellows from the ‘Black-Corner Region’. However, there were some sharp people who discovered that the scale this time around was larger than any previous time!

A clear voice suddenly sounded from within the Inner Academy just as a countless number of students stared at those Inner Academy experts who were flapping their wings in the sky with envious faces. Immediately, a gorgeous pair of jade-green fire wings carried a black figure as they rushed to the sky before the figure surfaced.

A countless number of gazes followed the howl and turned. Their eyes became hot and wild when they saw the black-robed, young man who had appeared.

During all these years, Xiao Yan was the first person who participated in such an Inner Academy great battle with a student status. This was

extreme glory in the eyes of these young students.

This was because having such a qualification indicated that Xiao Yan had already become a truly strong person whom even the upper echelons of the Inner Academy had recognized!

Xiao Yan ignored those wild heated gazes below him as he stood in the sky. His gaze turned toward the northern sky, and an arc which was filled with a chill slowly surfaced on his face.

“This time around, let me help teacher clean out the garbage!”

# Chapter 634: Arrival of the Great Battle

Black-Corner Region, Feng City.

The current Feng City had transformed immensely during these short two years. This was because Han Feng had established the 'Black Alliance' and had situated its headquarters in this city. This caused this small city to become a renowned city within the 'Black-Corner Region'. The current Feng City's size and businesses were all far from what they could be compared with two years ago.

A grand mansion stood in the large area in the middle of the city. That majestic overbearing aura was something that not a single building within the city could exceed. Of course, being the place where all the strong people within the 'Black Alliance' discussed issues and the home of Han Feng, it was likely that not a single person within the city possess the courage to exceed it.

The current Han Feng had already become the overlord of this place. His status was as solid as rock under the great reputation of the 'Black Alliance'. No one in the entire 'Black-Corner Region' dared to provoke him.

There were quite a number of human figures sitting within the extremely spacious hall of the mansion. The person who was seated in the highest leader's seat was naturally the current Alliance Head of the 'Black Alliance', Medicinal Emperor Han Feng!

Not far to the left and right of Han Feng were the strongest people within the 'Black-Corner Region', the Gold Silver Brothers. Below them were the heads of the various factions that had joined the 'Black Alliance'. Any one of the heads of these factions were the kind of extremely powerful people who could cause the entire 'Black-Corner Region' to quiver a little by just stomping their feet. However, these strong people could only sit in the lower seats in this kind of occasion. One could just imagine just how strict the division of one's position in the 'Black Alliance' was.

The atmosphere in the meeting room was somewhat pressuring. This kind of pressuring atmosphere all originated from the somewhat dark, gloomy face of Han Feng in the leader's seat.

"Everyone..." Han Feng's gaze slowly swept across the faces of everyone in the hall as he spoke in an indifferent voice, "I think that all of you should have heard some news. The little brat called Xiao Yan in the Inner Academy is still alive."

There was some commotion within the large hall. Although those seated were no ordinary people, their expressions changed a little at hearing this extremely familiar name. An expert who could defeat Han Feng was someone that they were not allowed to underestimate.

"The sect leader of the 'Blood Sect' has already died in the hands of this brat." Han Feng's finger gently tapped against the armrest. The words that he spoke were like a bomb that shook everyone until they were stunned.

Although they had received some news from two days ago, they did not dare to confirm Fan Lao's death. By saying this now, Han Feng was undoubtedly announcing Fan Lao's final end to everyone.

Although the 'Black Alliance' was not completely united, Fan Lao's death also caused them to grieve for their kin. Obviously, what they felt most was a faint worry and unease. Back then, Xiao Yan's near death in the 'Heavenly Flame' was directly or indirectly related to them. Now that the brat had unexpectedly lived, it was likely that he would not allow the people who were involved in the matter back then to easily escape. This was clear from the way he had killed Fan Lao.

"Although I did not have much contact with that brat, I can see that he is the kind who will definitely take revenge. Everyone seated here participated in the sneak attack back then, and I think that he will not let anyone off easily." Han Feng knit his brows slightly and said, "Fan Lao's strength could be ranked among the top ten even if placed in the entire 'Black-Corner Region'. Yet even he was still defeated by Xiao Yan hands. This clearly indicates that the fellow might well be even stronger than he was two years ago."

“If he were to really come and seek revenge, how many of you seated here have the confidence that you can flee alive?” Han Feng’s gaze looked all around the room. His voice was somewhat dark and solemn.

Everyone in the hall looked at one another. With the exception of the Gold Silver Brothers, everyone knit their brows slightly. Their faces were quite ugly. There might be a small number of people among them whose strength was stronger than Han Feng, but there was undoubtedly quite a big gap between Xiao Yan, who was able to kill Fan Lao, and them. If it was a simple matter of meeting him alone, whether they were able to flee was really quite an important question. After all, they clearly knew of the tactics of that old fellow Fan Lao. Even if he could not defeat the other party, he possessed many methods to flee. However, he still end up being defeated by Xiao Yan’s hands, not to mention them.

“Ke ke, brother Han, he alone may be very strong, but was our purpose not to put an end to such a situation when we established the ‘Black Alliance’ back then? If he really comes and seeks revenge, the many experts from our ‘Black Alliance’ will attack together. Don’t tell me that he can flip the sky?” The silence lasted for a moment before an old man wearing a gray robe with a dark eagle-like face suddenly spoke with a laugh to Han Feng. In order to be able to have a seat in a chaotic area like the ‘Black-Corner Region’, one must not only possess viciousness, but also cunningness. Therefore, this old man had bundled the entire ‘Black Alliance’ together when he spoke in this manner.

Everyone in the hall finally recovered after hearing the words of the gray-robed old man. All of them smiled and agreed.

Han Feng also smiled and nodded in the face of the gray-robed old man’s words. They had indeed established the ‘Black Alliance’ back then in order to deal with the revenge seeking Jia Nan Academy. This kind of vengeance seeking was naturally also part of it.

“I have already sent some people to inquire about Xiao Yan’s whereabouts from all over the place. I will inform everyone the moment I get some news. At that time, we can act first without him coming to look for us.” Han Feng smiled as he spoke. However, a viciousness seeped out

from his smile.

Everyone in the hall sighed in relief when they heard Han Feng's words. Xiao Yan was ultimately a thorn in their hearts. They would not be bothered about some bad reputation of bullying someone with numbers if they could get rid of him. Fairness and justice had long been thrown into the stinky drains when one was in a place like the 'Black-Corner Region'.

The corner of Han Feng's mouth moved a little as he saw that everyone did not voice any disagreement. An unusual smile flashed over his eyes, "If we really capture Xiao Yan at that time, I hope that everyone will hand him over to me to deal with. In exchange, I will give everyone a satisfactory reward."

Everyone in the hall hesitated a little when they heard this before nodding their heads. They knew that Han Feng greatly coveted Xiao Yan's 'Heavenly Flame'. Although a 'Heavenly Flame' was extremely rare, which ordinary person would dare to refine it? If one were careless, being turned into ashes by the backlash was something that could easily occur. Hence, everyone may covet the 'Heavenly Flame', but no one really dared to touch that thing.

Han Feng saw everyone nod their heads. Although he knew what they were thinking in their hearts, he did not open his mouth to refute it. He really did greatly covet Xiao Yan's 'Heavenly Flame'. However, the thing that he was most concerned about was the complete 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method that Xiao Yan practiced.

As a person who practiced an incomplete 'Flame Mantra', Han Feng was clearly aware just what kind of frightening strength this Qi Method possessed. One would be able to control numerous 'Heavenly Flames' by simply practicing it!

A 'Heavenly Flame' was able to allow him to barely fight with an elite Dou Zong with a strength that was at the peak of the Dou Huang class. If he were to refine and merge a couple more 'Heavenly Flames', it was likely that there would no longer be anyone who could match him on the continent.

The incomplete 'Flame Mantra' might have been studied by Han Feng all these years, but just controlling one kind, the 'Sea Heart Flame,' had caused his control to feel somewhat strained. If he were to swallow a second kind of 'Heavenly Flame', it was likely... that there would be quite the high chance of backlash.

Han Feng knew this clearer than anyone else within his heart. Hence, he had a kind of crazy possessiveness for the complete 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method. As long as he was able to find it on Xiao Yan, he might be able to possess the potential and qualification to leap to the peak of the continent!

Of course, the matter of the 'Flame Mantra' was far too important. Hence, Han Feng did not mention this to anyone else. After all, this Qi Method was not something that only an alchemist could practice. As long as one's body was of the fire affinity, one would possess the qualification to practice it. In the future, one could refine and merge 'Heavenly Flames', obtaining limitless possible achievements. How would he easily reveal such a big matter to another person?

An ordinary person only knew that he was extremely interested in Xiao Yan because the latter possessed a 'Heavenly Flame'. However, they did not know that his true target was the complete 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method which Xiao Yan practiced!

During the time that everyone in the hall had begun planning how to capture Xiao Yan, the Gold Silver Brothers, who were half-asleep with their eyes shut, on the two sides of the leader's seat suddenly opened their eyes. Their expressions changed slightly as they threw their gazes to the southern sky.

Han Feng also sensed something the instant the faces of the Gold Silver Brothers changed. His gaze turned from the hall to the southern sky. A large number of powerful auras were swiftly approaching from that direction. Han Feng was not unfamiliar with these auras. These auras would occasionally come and harass them during these two years. However, each time around, their faces would turn ashen and they would return in failure.

All the experts from the 'Black Alliance' within the hall looked at the sudden change in expressions on the faces of Han Feng and the Gold Silver Brothers. All of them were startled. Due to their lack of strength, they did not possess such a sharp sensing ability like the three people in front of them.

"Brother Han, Gold Silver Brothers, what is it?" The gray-robed old man with a dark eagle-like face carefully opened his mouth and inquired.

"Tsk tsk, our 'old friend' is here again." The old man who was wearing golden robes laughed in a strange manner as he stood up from his chair, smiled, and replied.

Everyone was startled when they heard this. They immediately came to a sudden understanding as all of them laughed out loud.

"These old fellows from the Jia Nan Academy really have great perseverance. Each time, they come with a fierce aura and each time they flee with their tails between their legs..."

Han Feng brows were slowly knit together in the face of the loud laughter all over the place. With the help of a certain perception between the 'Heavenly Flames'. He could vaguely sense that there appeared to be an extremely familiar hot aura that was approaching amid the large number of auras.

Moreover, for some unknown reason, HIS writhing 'Heavenly Flame' actually became slightly dull each time he relied on his 'Sea Heart Flame' to sense that familiar hot aura. This kind of situation was as though it had met a certain thing that it was afraid of...

Han Feng's expression slowly became solemn. Shock was subsequently added onto his face. Being able to cause even the 'Sea Heart Flame' which was ranked fifteenth on the 'Heavenly Flame Ranking' to be afraid... just what kind of frightening thing was hidden behind that hot aura?

# Chapter 635: Collision Between The Strong

Wave after wave of rushing wind sounds cut through the distant sky. A large group of little black dots swiftly appeared before finally turning into numerous human figures rushing past. The pressuring wind that was created from the fast speed caused numerous scar-like gullies to appear within the sea of trees in the mountains below. Moreover, the auras that were emitted from such a large number of experts caused all the Magical Beasts within this mountain range to softly whimper in fear. Even some of those powerful high ranked Magical Beasts did not dare be too active at this moment. Being in possession of a faint intelligence, they clearly knew that such a large aura was enough to destroy the entire mountain range.

“We are about to reach the headquarters of the ‘Black Alliance’, Feng City. Everyone, be careful!”

An elderly voice suddenly sounded beside everyone’s ears as they flew through the sky.

“Be careful. Feng City is currently the city where the ‘Black Alliance’ has the tightest defenses. We have exchanged blows with them quite a number of times during these two years.” Xiao Yan’s gaze was looking toward the edge of the mountain range when a human figure immediately flashed beside him. Su Qian’s figure surfaced before reminding the former.

“Aye. There are indeed quite a number of strong people within the city. I can sense that these auras appear to be quite familiar. Looks like, most of them are those who participated in the sneak attack back then.” Xiao Yan nodded slightly. By relying on his outstanding Spiritual Perception, he could sense the number of experts within the city more clearly than even Su Qian.

Su Qian was not too surprised at this ability of Xiao Yan. He nodded his head and spoke with a somewhat dark and solemn expression, “Initially these scattered factions were indeed no match for the Jia Nan Academy.

However, after the establishment of the 'Black Alliance' during these two years, we did not gain even a little advantage."

"The 'Black Alliance' is so strong?" Xiao Yan knit his brows slightly as he inquired in a soft voice.

"Ugh, there are many Elders in the Jia Nan Academy, but most of them are of the Dou Wang strength. On the other hand, some of the faction leaders in the 'Black Alliance' are elite Dou Huangs. It is fortunate that we had the numerical advantage. Only due to this did we barely stabilize the situation." Su Qian smiled bitterly and continued, "I may have the strength of a Dou Zong, but those two gold-silver old men who won't die are able to delay me by joining hands. If we were to average out the other fighting strength, both parties could maintain an equilibrium. However, in each conflict, Han Feng would rely on the strength of the 'Heavenly Flame' to swiftly defeat those Inner Academy experts and join hands with the gold-silver brothers to attack me. You should also know that that fellow may be only a peak Dou Huang but the 'Sea Heart Flame' is something that I have to carefully deal with. Even I am helpless if they fight three against one."

"Although the strength of the Inner Academy has expanded quite a bit, it is much smaller than the expansion of the experts in the 'Black Alliance'. You are also an alchemist. I think that you should know the gathering ability of a tier six alchemist. Which of those experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' don't want a medicinal pill from the hands of Medicine Emperor Han Feng?"

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. It is unexpected that Han Feng still had this tactic. In two short years, he was able to rely on his gathering ability to create a faction that could contend with an old academy like the Jia Nan Academy. Although the Jia Nan Academy definitely had quite a number of truly strong people hidden within it, these people were stubborn old fellows who would not appear unless it was a critical moment. They did not appear even when the Jia Nan Academy suffered such an intense attack back then. There was no need to even mention this kind of conflict to them. A conflict they did not consider to be very big.

"Leave Han Feng to me. First Elder, it should not be a problem to handle

the Gold Silver Brothers, right?” Xiao Yan smiled as he asked.

“Although these two old fellows can rely on their excellent twin collaboration to temporarily fight with me, they will fall into a disadvantageous situation once things drag on. The gap between a Dou Zong and a Dou Huang is not something that can be easily made up for.” Su Qian finally sighed in relief as he confidently spoke when he heard Xiao Yan’s promise.

“That’s good.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. His gaze flickered. A moment later, he suddenly spoke softly, “First Elder, can you hand Han Feng to me if we manage to be victorious in this battle and capture him?”

Su Qian was startled when he heard this, His gaze appeared to have a deeper meaning as he looked at Xiao Yan. He said, “Are you after the ‘Sea Heart Flame’ in his body?”

Xiao Yan gave a noncommittal smile.

“The ‘Sea Heart Flame’ is indeed an extremely valuable ‘Heavenly Flame’. However, according to what I know, it seems that alchemists can at the very most control one kind of ‘Heavenly Flame’? You unexpectedly now control two kinds... and can even continue to control a third kind?” Su Qian smiled. His tone was filled with an inexplicable feeling.

Xiao Yan’s hand was clenched without anyone noticing under his sleeves. He smiled faintly, “One must give up something in order to obtain strength. First Elder merely knows that I possess two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flame’, but doesn’t know just what kind of torture and pain I endured in the magma underground. If not for luck, it is likely that I wouldn’t have had the chance to escape from underground, nor have the qualification to think about what is too dangerous.”

“Perhaps attempting to control the ‘Heart Sea Flame’ may cause me to undergo a suffering of life and death. However, there is always a chance in everything. What I pursue is perhaps the lowest chance of success. This is because I know that once I succeed, I will be able to obtain sufficient strength only then. If I were to fail, being bitten by the ‘Heavenly Flame’ is only too common.”

“You are trying to gamble your life again.” Su Qian was startled for a moment before sighing. He said, “With your talent, you will definitely have significant achievements if you train normally.”

“My target is not so-called ‘significant achievements’.” Xiao Yan laughed softly. The ambition that was contained in that smile was something that silenced even an old fox like Su Qian. Only at this moment did he gain a little understanding that he seemed to have been underestimating this little fellow who had been repeatedly displaying miracles.

“Alright. If we are to emerge victorious this time around and manage to capture Han Feng, I will hand him over to you.” Su Qian was quiet for a moment before he finally nodded. His hand patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders, and used a voice that no one could hear to softly speak to him, “Additionally, if you have the chance, you can greet Yao zun-zhe for me. Back then, he sort of had a friendship with the headmaster.”

TL: zun-zhe – respectful manner to address a Dou Zun

The jade-green fire wings which were flapping on Xiao Yan’s back paused. His eyes also shrank a little at this moment as he turned his head to look at the smiling face of Su Qian. “You... how did you sense it?”

“Little fellow, don’t underestimate the eyesight of an elite Dou Zong. Moreover, I have met Yao zun-zhe in the past. However, I had yet to reach this position at that time.” Su Qian smiled as he waved his hand toward Xiao Yan. He said, “Relax, I will not leak this matter. However, from the looks of your grudge with Han Feng, I may perhaps guess that the matter of Yao zun-zhe’s death back then should have some relation to this fellow.”

Xiao Yan’s tensed body slowly relaxed. He quietly nodded and his heart suddenly completely relaxed. The current him was already no longer that small Dou Ling from two years ago. Given his current strength, even Su Qian, who was in front of him, might not be able to kill him if he used all his strength. Hence, he had the confidence that he was able to protect teacher even if news of Yao Lao was leaked.

This thought flashed across Xiao Yan’s heart. A faint smile suddenly

surfaced on the corner of his mouth as he thought of everything that had happened in the past.

Throughout the years, the young man who required Yao Lao's protection back then had unknowingly transformed into a truly strong person. The current Xiao Yan was finally able to leave the protection of Yao Lao's wings and soar through the sky.

"Ke ke, in that case, thank you First Elder for keeping the secret." Xiao Yan smiled and cupped his hands toward Su Qian. He immediately turned his head and gazed at the distant edge of his sight. The lush green mountains that were ever present had gradually disappeared. The somewhat familiar aura in the distance were even clearer.

"We have arrived..."

Su Qian raised his eyes. A cold glint flickered in his eyes as his cold voice suddenly resounded beside everyone's ears. "Everyone, today will determine whether we can wash the humiliation from the sneak attack these bastards launched on that Inner Academy back then!"

"Yes sir!"

Numerous cries rang out from the sky in unison. Immediately, powerful auras rose abruptly. Under the increase of the powerful auras of such a large formation, even the clouds in the sky were shaken until they turned into countless numbers of fragmented white spots that spread throughout the sky.

"Xiu! Xiu!"

Numerous black figures flew across the distant sky like meteorites as the large aura surged. After which, they rushed toward the city that possessed quite a great reputation even in the 'Black-Corner Region'.

This large aura which the many strong people from the Inner Academy unleashed was not hidden in any way. Therefore, the pressure of that aura had covered the entirety of Feng City even before they had arrived. In an instant, the originally noisy city had basically descended into a silence in an instant. Numerous shocked gazes turned toward the direction where

the aura originate.

“Where are you from thieves? You dare attack our Feng City?”

A large group of human figures suddenly rushed out from the private mansion in the middle of the city not long after the aura covered Feng City. Finally, they scattered and remained suspended in mid-air. The person in front was wearing an alchemist robe. His cold laughter was just like rolling thunder that began to spread with a ‘bang’ after being mixed with his Dou Qi.

The city immediately started to boil as they saw the numerous human figures appearing in the sky. As the owner of Feng City, Han Feng’s reputation was unmatched by anyone in this place. Of course, the people in the ‘Black-Corner Region’ only believed in the strong. Han Feng naturally possessed his own strength to own such a reputation in this place. If someone stronger appeared, this reputation of his would likely take a sudden decline.

“Han Feng, back then, you attacked our Inner Academy. Today, we shall completely settle all our grudges!”

Han Feng’s voice had just sounded when an old majestic voice rolled over from afar. Immediately, numerous figures appeared in front of the countless number of gazes.

“Xiu! Xiu! Xiu!”

Human figures flashed and arrived in the sky before finally standing in the empty air outside of Feng City. An enormous pressure spread out and engulfed the entire place.

Han Feng narrowed his gaze and swept it slowly over the many experts from the Inner Academy. A moment later, it finally came to an abrupt pause. The spot where his eyes paused in surprise was the owner of that hot aura which even the ‘Sea Heart Flame’ was afraid of!

“How unexpected... it is actually you... Xiao Yan!”

Han Feng’s face twitched slightly as his dark and solemn voice slowly resounded through the sky.

The entire city once again boiled under this name that was basically known to everyone within the 'Black-Corner City'!

# Chapter 636: Cross Swords

Han Feng's expression was dark and solemn as he glared at the black-robed young man in the sky outside Feng City. His heart was involuntarily overwhelmed. He really did not expect that the person who caused even the 'Sea Heart Flame' to be afraid of was actually this fellow!

While his heart was churning, Han Feng also felt some doubt. Although Xiao Yan controlled the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', the ranking of this flame on the 'Heavenly Flame Ranking' was behind that of the 'Sea Heart Flame'. How could it cause the 'Sea Heart Flame' to be afraid? Such a situation did not occur two years ago.

"What exactly happened to this brat during these past two years?" Han Feng's eyes flickered unceasingly. He could vaguely guess that such a change should be very much related with Xiao Yan's disappearance during these past two years.

"Ke ke, I have not seen you for two years, but it is really unexpected that you have become increasingly impressive..." Xiao Yan's expression was volatile as he stared at Han Feng in the sky before he smiled and said, "You were lucky to keep your life back then. I wonder if you will have such luck today?"

Han Feng smiled with extreme anger in the face of Xiao Yan's words which were clearly offensive. He said, "What an arrogant brat. Back then, you dared to contend with me because you borrowed some strength. What is there to be arrogant about? That old man who wouldn't die should be within your body right?"

With Han Feng's perception that was comparable to an elite Dou Zong, he had naturally sensed something when Xiao Yan was borrowing Yao Lao's strength back then. However, he did not have time to bother about it because he was pressed for time. After calming down during these two years, the sudden surge in Xiao Yan's strength, and the somewhat familiar Spiritual Strength had swiftly given Han Feng his answer.

"Today, I will use my own strength to help clean house for teacher." Xiao

Yan smiled as he replied. There was a denseness in his smile which was filled with killing intent that was not hidden.

“I’m afraid that you are not qualified, junior.” Han Feng laughed coldly. Xiao Yan was still currently alive. In that case, Han Feng knew that he might no longer be able to hide the reason for Yao Lao’s death. Therefore, he did not hide anything when he spoke. Moreover, he was even planning something even more vicious deep in his heart. Yao Lao might have died, but a spiritual form had remained. That ghastly and mysterious organization possessed an extremely great interest for these kinds of powerful spiritual bodies. As long as he spread this news out, that mysterious organization would naturally go and look for him. At that time, Xiao Yan would descend into a situation where his life was being unceasingly pursued.

Han Feng did have some connections with that mysterious organization that specialized in the capture of spiritual bodies on the continent. His murder of Yao Lao back then was only able to succeed because of their participation. Otherwise, it would not have been possible for him to succeed alone given Yao Lao’s peak strength back then even if he had the opportunity to attack Yao Lao while he was off-guard. Dou Zun. How could this so-called legendary class elite be just an empty name?

The address which Han Feng had spat out from his mouth also caused the experts on both sides of the sky to be slightly startled. It was a long while later before their unusual gazes swept over both of them. Han Feng’s teacher back then was Yao zun-zhe, Yao Chen, who was renowned throughout the continent back then. Despite the many years that had passed, there were still many people who firmly remembered this name that possessed a limitless fame. From the form of address which Han Feng used, it seemed that this Xiao Yan was actually the disciple of Yao zun-zhe? However, was it not rumored that Yao zun-zhe had died? How could he still have other disciples? Moreover, these two disciples not only did not have a relation such as that of brothers with the same teacher, but were instead enemies who wanted each other’s life...

Clusters of questions without answers filled people’s minds, causing

their heads to be filled by a fog.

Whatever the case, this form of address by Han Feng faintly caused Xiao Yan's status to suddenly rise greatly. The disciple of Yao zun-zhe. If this status were to spread, it was likely that it would cause his name to soar. After all, as an alchemist grandmaster, Yao Lao's achievements in terms of alchemy were something that not many people were able to surpass even today.

"Ke ke, First Elder Su Qian, may I inquire what is your motive for leading such a large group of experts to Feng City today?" Han Feng's gaze turned from Xiao Yan to Su Qian by the side and asked with a smile.

"All of us know it very well, so why is there a need to utter such foolish words?" Su Qian smiled coldly, and did not give Han Feng any face when he spoke, "Back then, you led people to launch a sneak attack on my Inner Academy. You tell me if I should take revenge for that?"

"First Elder, your words are too grave. A 'Heavenly Flame' is born from nature. Everyone has the right to obtain it. The sealing method of the Inner Academy is not advisable. I was only hoping to allow it to escape that restrained life. What is wrong with that?" Han Feng smiled. His words were dignified as though they were filled with a righteousness. However, no one present was a fool. Even the city dwellers within Feng City were noncommittal toward these words. The word righteousness did not exist in the 'Black-Corner Region'. Only benefits to oneself would reign supreme.

Su Qian glanced indifferently at Han Feng and said, "I shall not argue with you. There is only one matter I am after by coming today..."

"What is it?"

"Dissolve the 'Black Alliance'."

Su Qian spoke in a calm manner. Currently, the 'Black Alliance' was basically the strongest alliance in the 'Black-Corner Region'. Moreover, this alliance frequently viewed the Jia Nan Academy with malice. During these two years, the 'Black Alliance' had already become a thorn in Su Qian's heart. If he did not remove it, this thorn would cause him to feel

uneasy when he slept and ate.

The smile on Han Feng's face was slowly withdrawn as he laughed and shook his head. "Since when has the First Elder become so childish? Does your Jia Nan Academy have the qualification to get me to dissolve the 'Black Alliance'?"

"You can try." Su Qian was expressionless. He did not waste his breath as his foot slowly stepped forward. Immediately, the frightening aura of an elite Dou Zong surged out from his body. Like a dense cloud, it covered all the experts within the 'Black-Corner Region'.

Su Qian had gathered a large group of experts to this place because he wanted to completely remove the tumor known as the 'Black Alliance' and to wash away the previous humiliation. Hence, any words were simply a useless prelude. The final result would still be a fight that would determine the victor.

"Tsk tsk, Elder Su Qian is really impressive. Have you not suffered many disadvantages over these past two years? Yet you still stubbornly come and seek more bitterness." A strange laugh suddenly sounded. A gold figure and a silver figure rushed out from their side of the sky in a lightning-like manner, and immediately stood facing Su Qian from a distance. Two powerful auras intertwined with one another before agglomerating together and charging through the clouds, completely suppressing Su Qian's pressuring aura. Other than the so-called Gold Silver Brothers, there was no one else in this 'Black-Corner Region' who could contend with Su Qian.

"Since First Elder Su Qian stubbornly wants to find trouble with our 'Black Alliance', you should not blame us for not giving you face." Han Feng laughed coldly. His gaze immediately turned toward Xiao Yan and laughed savagely, "However, on the account that you have presented me with such a gift, I will not let the Jia Nan Academy appear too miserable."

"All members of the 'Black Alliance' listen up!"

Han Feng's eyes suddenly became stern as he waved his hand and cried out coldly, "As the strongest alliance within the 'Black-Corner Region', it is

likely that no one will want to join us if we allow these people to step on our face today. Hence, show everyone your true abilities, and let these old fellows who only know how to teach students understand that our 'Black Alliance' is not a softie that they can pinch as they please!"

"Yes sir!"

The various heads of the 'Black-Corner Region' who had become somewhat impatient responded in unison as Han Feng's voice rang out. Immediately, numerous powerful auras surged out. Their faces were filled with savage smiles as they looked at the line-up of the Jia Nan Academy outside the city. During the conflicts within these two years, the Jia Nan Academy would return dispiritedly each time they came to look for trouble. Hence, they were no longer afraid of the Jia Nan Academy like they were in the past.

"Everyone, these fellows launched a sneak attack on the Inner Academy back then and nearly destroyed our Inner Academy. We must definitely seek revenge. Today, shall be the time in which we completely end this grudge. Stake your life to fight if you don't wish to return in a miserable manner!" Su Qian's cry was somewhat heavy at this moment. There was a thread within his eyes. The fights with the 'Black Alliance' these two years were the most depressing moments in his entire life. Now that he had the help of a strong person like Xiao Yan, it was no longer farfetched to wash away this humiliation!

The faces of the experts from the Inner Academy instantly became flushed red when they heard Su Qian's cry. The dispirited feeling they felt in their hearts was not any weaker than what Su Qian felt. Although there were many small repeated actions within the 'Black-Corner Region', no one dared to provoke the Jia Nan Academy in this manner. However, after they suffered losses during these two years, these people from the 'Black-Corner Region' were becoming more arrogant. Now, they actually did not view the Inner Academy seriously. This was absolutely a kind of humiliation for those from the Inner Academy!

Numerous powerful auras spread out. Although the individual auras of the experts from the Inner Academy were weaker than the 'Black

Alliance', they were larger in number. Hence, both parties were similar in terms of the fight between auras.

"Xiao Yan, I'll leave Han Feng to you. He is an extremely critical figure. Once he manages to get rid of you, it is likely that he can influence the victory or defeat of the fight. Hence, you must delay him until I defeat the Gold Silver Brothers!" Su Qian turned his head and spoke to Xiao Yan seriously, "Therefore, your importance is something no one can compare with!"

"Although I won't brag and tell you that I will kill him, at the very least, he will not have the time to interfere anywhere else. I can guarantee you on this point." Xiao Yan smiled slightly and spoke.

"That's good! Whether our Inner Academy will once again withdraw miserably in this battle today is all up to you!" Su Qian sighed in relief. He clearly understood that given Xiao Yan's character, he would definitely not say such words if he did not have the confidence.

Xiao Yan smiled slightly and nodded. He raised his head and slowly locked his gaze onto Han Feng in the sky of the city. His mouth moved slightly and a voice that could only be heard by the two of them was transmitted over in an extremely soft and weak manner.

"I will take the 'Heavenly Flame' within your body!"

Han Feng's brows trembled a little. A viciousness flashed across his eyes. He slowly lifted his hand and aimed it at Xiao Yan from a distant before clenching it abruptly.

"Junior, no matter what happens, you will not leave this place today!"

A savage smile was contained at the corner of Han Feng's mouth. He immediately tilted his head and a faint voice reverberated in the sky. It completely caused the anxious swords-drawn atmosphere to erupt!

"Kill them! Don't show any mercy!"

# Chapter 637: Fire Lotus Bottle

The anxious swords-drawn atmosphere suddenly erupted following Han Feng's voice.

“Chi!”

The Gold Silver Brothers were the first to move. Powerful Dou Qi entwined together and the two human figures appeared to have been merged as they turned into a ray of light that shot explosively toward Su Qian. Their bodies drew through the sky as waves of low, deep sonic booms were emitted. These two old fellows were the strongest within this chaotic ‘Black-Corner Region’. Naturally, they had some ability that ordinary people could not compare with. Such a momentum was comparable to that of an ordinary Dou Zong.

Su Qian laughed coldly as he saw that the Gold Silver Brothers had a clear target. During these two years, he had fought with these two fellows no less than ten times. Although the two of them could rely on their extremely great collaboration to fight with him, this was only a temporary thing. He had the confidence that as long as no one intervened in the middle of the fight, he would definitely be able to finish off these two old fellows.

Su Qian's somewhat shriveled hand extended out from his sleeves. His gaze was once again thrown toward Xiao Yan as he spoke in a deep voice, “I will leave Han Feng to you...” After speaking those words, his body shook and transformed into a flowing light that shot out. Finally, it collided with the Gold Silver Brothers in front of a countless number of gazes. The ripple that instantaneously erupted turned into a wave that swiftly spread out from the point of contact.

The three human figures had just crossed each other when they turned into vaguely visible figures amid numerous rushing wind sounds that appeared one after another. The intense Dou Qi collisions exploded rapidly, appearing like fireworks that were beautiful, but filled with danger.

The auras of the experts from both sides were completely dragged out the moment Su Qian collided with the Gold Silver brothers. An instant later, numerous figures wrapped under powerful Dou Qi turned into light rays that shot out under a furious roar that had suddenly erupted. Finally, they transformed into a meteor shower that collided with a bang in front of a countless number of heated gazes below.

There were a couple of expert Dou Huangs among the experts from the 'Black-Corner Region'. On the other hand, there were fewer Dou Huangs on the Inner Academy's side. In order to deal with those excess elite Dou Huangs, three expert Dou Wangs per Dou Huang were needed to contain them. The understanding and cooperation between these Elders from the Inner Academy was quite good. Hence, through their collaboration, they were at least able to hold back the Dou Huangs until the Dou Huangs could not leave even if they could not defeat them.

"Second brother, be careful!" Xiao Yan slowly let out a breath as he watched the energy fireworks that were emitted in all directions. He turned his head to face Xiao Li who had been maintaining his silence and spoke softly.

Xiao Li raised his head slightly as his gaze swept over the enormous battlefield not far away with a vicious wolf-like gaze. He immediately nodded and laughed somewhat cunningly, "Relax, I will not go and challenge a Dou Huang. As long as I don't meet one as abnormal as you, I have the confidence in dealing with any other Dou Wang."

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his hand. A transparent palm-sized jade bottle appeared in his hand. There was a life-like green-colored flame suspended within the jade bottle. Xiao Yan's finger touched the jade bottle before stuffing it toward Xiao Li without leaving any trace. He softly said, "You can pour Dou Qi in and quickly throw it if you meet a troublesome opponent."

"This is?" Xiao Li received it extremely quickly and inquired with an impassive face.

"I have used the 'Heavenly Flames' after merging them to create a small

scale 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame'. I name it 'Fire Lotus Bottle'. Although the explosion created will not possess the kind of power of a true 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame', it will certainly be quite useful during critical moments. Unfortunately, it is too difficult to create it. Otherwise, if I gave you a hundred or eighty of them, it is likely that you would be able to blow up a Dou Huang until he became badly battered should you meet one." Xiao Yan laughed darkly. This thing was something he had coincidentally thought of. If it was in the past, it was likely that Xiao Yan would not be able to create it even if he was beaten to death. Moreover, this thing could at most be maintained for three days due to the need for the energy to maintain it. If one did not use it within three days, it would automatically disappear. On a whole, however, it was not a bad gadget.

"You always like to create these things." Xiao Li smiled and nodded. He said, "Alright, you should also be more careful. That bastard Han Feng is not someone ordinary. If you really cannot deal with him, you should flee by yourself. Remember, the Xiao clan can only rely on you!"

Once he said those words, the lightning-like silver-colored wings on his back flapped. A faint rumbling thunder appeared, and his body immediately became like a blade that shot into the big chaotic battleground in the sky.

Xiao Yan's gaze sent Xiao Li off as the latter rushed into the chaotic battleground. He smiled slightly. Only then did he raise his eyes and swept them toward the only remaining person in the sky who had not moved: Han Feng!

Han Feng appeared to have sensed something when Xiao Yan's gaze was thrown toward him. The gaze which was paused in the chaotic battleground slowly turned before finally colliding with Xiao Yan's gaze. Four eyes entwined with each other as sparks filled with killing intent seeped out.

The noisy energy explosions quietly weakened as the two of them faced each other. This kind of solemn silence continued for a moment before the two quiet and unmoving figures simultaneously disappeared from their original spots in a ghost-like manner.

Being the two people who had the most attention within the battleground, Xiao Yan's and Han Feng's disappearance caused a countless number of shocked voices to be emitted from below.

“Chi!”

When everyone was stunned because of the disappearance of these two people, two human figures strangely surfaced once again in a certain part of the sky. However, the distance between the two of them this time around was not more than a couple of dozens of meters.

“Junior, aren't you planning to call that old fellow out to help you this time around?” Han Feng looked at the black-robed, young man in front of him far from the chaotic battleground. The corner of his mouth was lifted into a mocking arc. He slowly raised his hand and a dark-blue flame writhed. The high temperature caused the surrounding temperature to rise. However, Xiao Yan, who was a short distance in front of him, was unmoved despite all of this. He had experienced that vile environment of the magma world. This little temperature did not have the slightest ability to shock him.

“How can I ask teacher to perform something like cleaning house?” Xiao Yan's smile was warm. However, he did not hide the coldness hidden in that smile.

TL: cleaning house – eliminating traitors

Han Feng's eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan. A long while later, he suddenly said in a faint voice, “I really don't understand. Why did he not pass the ‘Flame Mantra’ to me back then? I was his most outstanding student, and the one whom he was most pleased with. If he handed the ‘Flame Mantra’ to me, I would have definitely respected him like I did in the past. His final end was something that he sought after himself.”

Xiao Yan's expression slowly became solemn. His voice was filled with ridicule and coldness, “Without teacher, you would merely be an orphan with nothing. Teacher viewed you like his own son. However, you betrayed him just for the ‘Flame Mantra’? It is praise to call you a beast!”

“Since he treated me like his own son, why did he not pass the ‘Flame

Mantra' to me? I lived with him for so many years, but he had never given it to me. What right do you have to obtain it?" Han Feng suddenly roared out angrily. His face was ferocious and frightening.

"You have already obtained the 'Flame Mantra'. It is only natural that you can act so morally. If you, as his disciple, knew that he possessed an incomparable Qi Method, but ultimately refused to pass it to you, what would you do? I'm afraid that you would be similar to me!"

Xiao Yan glanced at him indifferently and spoke softly, "An animal will always use the eyes of an animal to view this world. This is something that no one can change."

Han Feng's expression became savage. His body trembled repeatedly. It was only a long while later that he managed to suppress the impulse in his heart to tear Xiao Yan into ten thousand pieces. A stiff smile was revealed on his face as he said, "Junior, as long as you are willing to hand over the complete version of the 'Flame Mantra', I can hand the entire 'Black Alliance' to you. Aren't you also an alchemist? I can also give you many high-tier medicinal formulas. As long as you agree, I will accept any condition you propose! What do you say?"

Xiao Yan half-smiled as he studied the fellow in front of him who had changed his expression abruptly. It was just like watching a clown. A long while later, Xiao Yan actually nodded his head in front of Han Feng's surprised gaze. The former laughed and said, "Yes, you can use your life to exchange for it."

The surprise in Han Feng's eyes slowly withdrew. He inhaled a deep breath of air and the savageness on his face slowly disappeared. At this moment, he appeared to have once again recovered the demeanor of the Medicine Emperor in the 'Black-Corner Region.' His gaze was dark and dense as he stared at the smiling black-robed, young man in front of him. He said, "Since that is the case, I can only capture you. Ke ke, be assured that I have many tactics. At that time, I won't be worried if you don't hand the 'Flame Mantra' over to me. Moreover, I will also take the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' within your heart away and let you become a completely useless person."

Xiao Yan merely smiled and shook his head in the face of Han Feng's words that contained sinister traces. "Honestly speaking, I also value the 'Sea Heart Flame' in your body very much. I think that it might enable my 'Flame Mantra' to evolve to an extremely high level."

"In that case, I will see whether your strength is as strong as your mouth!" Han Feng smiled in a dark manner. Dou Qi flowed wildly within his body before a dark-blue flame surged to the sky from his hand. It was just like a water curtain that fell from the sky, and it possessed an extremely majestic aura.

The blue-colored fire curtain that had suddenly erupted immediately attracted the countless number of gazes from the city. Shocked voices involuntarily sounded from within the city when they saw this large-scale fire.

"During these two years, I have also gradually touched the barrier of an elite Dou Zong. The current me is much stronger than I was in the past. The last time, I was seriously wounded by you because I had underestimated that fire lotus of yours. You won't have such good luck this time around." Han Feng's body was suspended in the dark-blue fire curtain that fell from the sky. He looked down at Xiao Yan from above as he spoke with a cold smile.

Xiao Yan gently waved his sleeves as he raised his head to look at the large deep-blue fire curtain. A jade-green flame began to rise from his body before wrapping around his entire body.

"A dark-jade-green flame?" Han Feng's eyes suddenly shrank when he saw the dark-green flame appearing. He clearly remembered that the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' back then was not this color...

Han Feng's expression changed abruptly as he was pondering while feeling loss within his heart. He abruptly raised his head only to be shocked. He saw his deep-blue fire curtain, that fell from the sky, appeared to have felt some sort of powerful presence as it swiftly became sluggish.

Han Feng was stunned as he felt the 'Sea Heart Flame' become somewhat sluggish. He could clearly sense a fear being emitted from the

flame!

Xiao Yan smiled when he watched the fire curtain that had suddenly become sluggish. A wisp of dark-green flame gently rose on his finger as he spoke with a soft laugh.

“Senior, it appears that your ‘Heavenly Flame’ is a little afraid of my ‘Heavenly Flame’...”

# Chapter 638: Fight Between Those with the Same Teacher

“You... you changed your ‘Heavenly Flame’?”

Han Feng’s eyes stared intently at the dark-green flame writhing on Xiao Yan’s body. Although that kind of flame did not overtly display a monstrous aura, Han Feng could still vaguely sense just how frightening that dark-green flame was by relying on his extremely sharp Spiritual Perception.

Xiao Yan smiled in the face of Han Feng’s shocked expression. A wisp of dark-green flame mischievously ran about the tips of his fingers like a spirit. Occasionally, the space would be faintly distorted when the tail of the wisp passed by.

“Senior, I will help teacher settle the hurt that he suffered back then.” Xiao Yan clenched his right hand tightly, and the large Heavy Xuan Ruler appeared. With a wave, the heavy ruler carried a pressuring wind before pointing at Han Feng from a distance.

Han Feng’s expression was solemn. He clenched his hand tightly as the dark-blue flame swiftly flowed. Finally, it transformed into a fire longsword that he pointed toward Xiao Yan from a distance. He spoke in a sinister manner, “Don’t use this kind of reprimanding tone to speak to me. I do not have the slightest regret for what I did back then. The only thing that caused me regret was that I still failed to obtain the ‘Flame Mantra’ in the end. However, that doesn’t matter anymore because you have already come to hand it to me.”

“You are indeed an animal...” Xiao Yan sighed and shook his head. He finally ceased speaking any nonsense to this animal who was blinded by the ‘Flame Mantra’. A bright silver glow surfaced under his feet before the faint rumbling sound of thunder reverberated across the sky. Xiao Yan’s body suddenly trembled the moment the thunder sounded.

“An afterimage huh? It is unexpected that you have indeed become

much stronger during these two years. Now, you are able to reach this stage without using that old fellow's strength. However, do you think that this is of any use against me?" Han Feng laughed coldly as he watched the figure of 'Xiao Yan' remain in the air. The deep-blue fire wings on his back flapped slightly as his body withdrew a couple of meters in a gliding fashion. A black figure suddenly surfaced in front of him just as his body moved. An enormous heavy ruler carried a frightening pressure and wind-tearing sound as it violently and fiercely hacked down!

The figure twisted a little as it formed a somewhat strange posture while the heavy ruler moved along the front of Han Feng as it hacked down. The force that was contained on it did not cause Han Feng much harm under the protection of the 'Sea Heart Flame'.

"Junior, although your strength has currently increased greatly, the number of fights that this senior has undergone exceeds the number of meals you have eaten!" Han Feng dodged Xiao Yan's attack and smiled coldly. His arm shook abruptly, and the fire longsword in his hand drew an extremely vicious arc that bypassed the heavy ruler and pierced toward Xiao Yan's chest.

"Clang!"

Xiao Yan's expression did not change in the face of this vicious attack by Han Feng. He twisted his wrist slightly, and the heavy ruler swiftly rotated and flew back up. Finally, it acted like a shield that blocked in front of Xiao Yan, completely defending him against the fire sword.

"Chi! Chi!"

This agile reaction of Xiao Yan caused Han Feng to raise his brows in surprise. His arm immediately shook, and the fire longsword in his hand immediately divided into a countless number of them. The many afterimages all alternated between being real and illusionary as they carried a hot wind that shot out in all directions, completely wrapping all around Xiao Yan. The attack was sharp and vicious.

Xiao Yan did not panic in the face of this sharp attack by Han Feng. Although he had recently lost the support of Yao Lao's strength, his

original strength was no longer weaker than the him who had borrowed Yao Lao's strength back then. Moreover, the strength completely belonged to him now. Hence, it was extremely smooth to control.

A silver glow flickered under Xiao Yan's feet as he used some strange footwork. His body swayed left and right in a strange manner as he dodged all the sword shadows that came from every direction. His heavy ruler was waved occasionally and completely blocked some of the glows. The sparks that emitted from it lit up the young face which appeared to be extremely calm.

Xiao Yan's body suddenly paused while it was flashing about. A glow grew extremely bright at this moment as a low cry was emitted from his throat. Immediately, the heavy ruler in his hand carried a dark-green flame as it pierced forward. Immediately, it formed what seemed like a real, yet illusory sword afterimage amid the numerous afterimages in the sky.

“Clang!”

A clear sound slowly resounded as the sword figures that filled the sky suddenly disappeared. Only the fire longsword collided heavily with the heavy ruler!

“Heh!”

Xiao Yan suddenly let out a low cry as he sensed the wild and violent force that surged over from the tip of the sword. Powerful Dou Qi surged out from each and every single part of his body before following his veins and quickly poured into his hands. Xiao Yan's arms quietly became a little stronger with the surge of this powerful Dou Qi.

Xiao Yan's arm trembled suddenly. An explosive strength surged out from the 'Heavy Xuan Ruler' before it charged into the interior of the fire longsword in a peremptory manner.

“Bang!”

Strength was poured in in an overbearing manner. One could see that the fire longsword which had been agglomerated from the 'Sea Heart

Flame', began to show traces of crack lines. Han Feng's expression sank a little when he saw this change, so he swiftly released the hilt of the longsword.

When his hand left the sword's hilt, the latter immediately burst apart with a clear sound after having lost its energy support.

"This fellow's 'Heavenly Flame' is a little strange!" A glint swiftly flickered in Han Feng's eyes when the fire sword burst apart. When the other party's strength swarmed into the fire sword earlier, he had clearly sensed that the other party's 'Heavenly Flame' was... splitting the 'Sea Heart Flame'!

Having gained the advantage with his attack, Xiao Yan ceased hesitating. His hand heavily struck the ruler's hilt, and the Heavy Xuan Ruler was immediately wrapped by the jade-green flame. It became just like a dark-green lightning bolt as it charged toward Han Feng who was close by!

Even with Han Feng's speed, he had some difficulty dodging at such close distance. Therefore, he could only wrap his hand with the 'Sea Heart Flame' and slam it violently against the heavy ruler.

"Clang!"

A clear metal sound was immediately emitted when his hand slammed against the heavy ruler. The force surged wildly before sending the heavy ruler flying away. However, the moment that Han Feng's hand came into contact with that heavy ruler, the dark-green flame was like a sticky liquid that quickly stuck to his hand. While being burned by the green flame, that 'Sea Heart Flame' actually began to become thinner at a rate visible to the naked eye!

Some uneasiness finally rose within Han Feng's heart as he watched the increasingly thinner 'Sea Heart Flame'. From such close contact, he could already be certain that the 'Heavenly Flame' Xiao Yan used this time around was definitely not the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' from back then!

Surging Dou Qi suddenly spat out from Han Feng's hand. After the standoff, that dark-green flame which had stuck to his body was extinguished. Han Feng instantly stepped back. His expression was solemn

as he stared at the warm smile of the black-robed, young man. This fellow had become even stranger and more difficult to deal with after having not met for two years.

Surprise flashed across Xiao Yan's face when he saw that Han Feng did not spend much effort to escape the dark-green flame. This fellow was indeed just as Yao Lao described. He had extremely outstanding talent both in terms of alchemy and training. Although Xiao Yan had grown much stronger during these two years, it was obvious that this fellow's strength had soared by quite a lot. Moreover, it might really be as he had said. The current Han Feng had already touched the barrier of an elite Dou Zong. Perhaps, he might be able to step into that extremely powerful class one day.

"A person who could catch the eye of that old fellow to take in as a student is indeed not ordinary... I underestimated you earlier." Han Feng lowered his head to study his somewhat charred black hand. He sighed and shook his head before gently inhaling a breath of air. He lifted his head and his gaze stared viciously at Xiao Yan. With a cold smile, he said, "Although your strength has grown greatly during these two years, I did not squander away this time either..."

The seal in Han Feng's hand changed as his voice sounded. Immediately, a majestic Dou Qi surged out explosively from his body. The strength of this Dou Qi had far exceeded that of an ordinary elite peak Dou Huang. It had even... reached the level where one already had a foot into the Dou Zong class!

The sudden appearance of such powerful Dou Qi caused the chaotic battleground not far away to become quiet. Numerous shocked gazes were thrown over. Moreover, these gazes immediately became excited when they paused on Han Feng's body.

"This fellow... has actually stepped into the Dou Zong class huh..."

Regardless of whether one was an Inner Academy expert or one was an expert from the 'Black-Corner Region', everyone felt their hearts were filled with shock as they watched the messy hair of Han Feng blow about

while his majestic aura spluttered out. There was hardly anyone who had seen Han Feng fight during these few years. Hence, no one knew that this fellow had unknowingly reached this stage!

The earth-shaking Dou Qi that suddenly erupted caused Su Qian as well as the Gold Silver Brothers to be dull. Three pairs of eyes followed the source of the eruption of Dou Qi and looked over. Each of their eyes were immediately filled with different emotions.

“This fellow is really extremely scheming. Even we were not aware that he had reached that stage...” The Gold Silver Brothers exchanged looks with one another. There was an involuntary envy in their eyes. The both of them had stopped at the peak of the Dou Huang class for nearly ten years, but they did not even advance a little since then. Han Feng, on the other hand, actually revealed the signs of stepping to a higher level within less than five years. Such speed caused them to involuntarily feel envy in their hearts.

Su Qian’s heart gradually sank when he discovered that the source of the Dou Qi was Han Feng. If Han Feng had truly stepped half a foot into the Dou Zong class, his fighting strength... would likely soar a couple of times. If he were to use his ‘Heavenly Flame’, even Su Qian had to admit that he might have difficulty defeating him, much less Xiao Yan.

Originally, Su Qian hoped that Xiao Yan would be able to hold Han Feng back. From the looks of the current situation, everything would likely fall through. Once Han Feng managed to free himself and join the Gold Silver Brothers, even he would be defeated. In that case, the Inner Academy might truly suffer great injuries and deaths this time around.

Su Qian let out a soft despondent sigh. He immediately forced himself to become alert. Now, he could only put his hope on that little fellow who frequently created miracles. All of his other worries would not be of any help...

“Little fellow, can you still block Han Feng this time around?”

Su Qian shifted his gaze, and muttered softly while looking at the black-robed young man whose expression could not be seen.

# Chapter 639: Han Feng with Half a Foot into the Dou Zong Class

Xiao Yan's face gradually became solemn as he watch the majestic Dou Qi that suddenly surged out from Han Feng's body. He really did not expect this fellow to have taken half a step into the Dou Zong class within these past two years. Although Han Feng currently only had half a foot into the class, anyone knew that as long as one had half a foot in then one was already not very far from fully attaining that class.

This half a foot would also allow Han Feng to far exceed an ordinary peak Dou Huang expert. Adding the collaboration with his 'Sea Heart Flame', it was likely that his fighting strength would be truly able to stand shoulder to shoulder with a true elite Dou Zong!

Despite the great increase in Xiao Yan's current strength, he still possessed quite a great pressure when faced with such a powerful fighting strength. A strength that could stand shoulder to shoulder with a Dou Zong was something that no one could easily underestimate.

"During these past two years, you are the first person who has caused me to completely reveal my strength." The Dou Qi wings on Han Feng's back slowly disappeared as Han Feng's feet stepped in the air and spoke faintly to Xiao Yan. Remaining in the empty air without any support. This was something that only an elite Dou Zong could perform. At such a level, the sky would be just like flat land. One's agility and one's reaction would be increased by a couple of levels when fighting with others.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and stared at Han Feng who was suspended in the sky. He slowly exhaled and said, "You are merely someone who has half a foot in the Dou Zong class. Is it worth it for you to act so proud and arrogant?"

"At the very least, it is sufficient to finish you off... stubborn-mouthed 'junior'!" Han Feng flipped his hand, and a cluster of substance-like majestic Dou Qi writhed unceasingly in his hand. The energy ripples that faintly seeped out caused the space around him to shake.

“Is that so...” Xiao Yan smiled coldly. The dark-green flame in his hand suddenly rose and was shrouded as they attacked. With a pull of his hand, the dark-green flame was split apart, and transformed into two clusters of flame. One was green and the other was invisible.

Xiao Yan’s left hand held the green flame, while his right hand held the invisible flame. He raised his head and watched Han Feng, whose expression had turned extremely ugly at this moment. He smiled and said, “Weren’t you very uncertain as to how my ‘Heavenly Flame’ had changed? Now, you might be able to guess the answer, no?”

“Fallen Heart Flame!” Han Feng’s eyes stared intently at the cluster of invisible flame in Xiao Yan’s right hand. His teeth gnashing voice carried threads of cold wind as each word spilled out from his mouth. Only at this moment was the doubt in his heart completely settled.

“You... you have actually refined the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’?” The majestic Dou Qi that lingered on Han Feng’s body writhed intensely, much like the interior of his heart. A moment later, a furious and disbelieving voice was finally emitted from his mouth.

“Congratulations, you have guessed correctly...” Xiao Yan raised his brows and spoke mockingly toward Han Feng whose face was as dark and solemn as the sky before a storm. The dark solemn expression on Han Feng’s face began showing the trend of evolving into a much more ferocious state.

“How unexpected. It is really unexpected that did the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ not kill you, but also allowed you to achieve a great deal! That jade-green flame of yours is actually the merger of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ and the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. No wonder... No wonder it has the ability to divide my ‘Sea Heart Flame’!” Han Feng’s dark, solemn voice carried a powerful pressuring Dou Qi as it enveloped Xiao Yan.

“The ‘Flame Mantra’ is really a good thing. Hee hee. You have once again allowed me to recognize its value. Therefore, I will use all means, fair or foul to obtain it!” Han Feng’s hands danced wildly as a craziness faintly appeared on his face. “However, so what if you possess two kinds of

‘Heavenly Flames’? Do you possess the ability to perfectly control their strength? My strength far surpasses yours. As long as I defeat you, the ‘Flame Mantra’, ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’, ‘Fallen Heart Flame’, all of them will be mine!”

“Lunatic... I’m afraid that you don’t have that ability.” An arc was lifted on the corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth. A ridiculing smile appeared within his eyes as he shook his head slightly. He slowly raised his right hand and aimed at Han Feng. The invisible flame immediately began to ripple...

The body of the crazy faced Han Feng not far away suddenly trembled as the ripple of the invisible flame became increasingly intense. The majestic Dou Qi on his body swiftly became chaotic. It finally slowly recovered after a couple of blinks. He held his chest, and his gaze looked at Xiao Yan in a dark and gloomy manner, “Summoning Heart Flame?”

The special effect that gave one the greatest headache was something that Han Feng was also quite afraid of. No one dared to ignore that Heart Flame which no one could sense. After all, the interior of one’s body was ultimately the weakest and most important part of oneself. If one were to receive a slight injury within it, it was likely that it would result in the entire person’s condition taking a blow. Hence, Han Feng swiftly maneuvered a large amount of Dou Qi to suppress it the moment it appeared.

Xiao Yan smiled as he witnessed the majestic Dou Qi on Han Feng’s body become dimmer and paler than before. It appeared that the naughty Heart Flame had caused Han Feng to spend quite a great amount of effort to suppress. In this way, Han Feng’s fighting ability would be reduced somewhat while he was splitting his attention on two things. This was extremely good news for Xiao Yan.

“You want to cause me harm by relying on this little Heart Flame?” Han Feng’s face was gloomy and cold as he watched Xiao Yan. The cluster of surging Dou Qi on his hand was also swiftly activated. The powerful energy ripple seeped out at an increasing pace. From the looks of it, this cluster of surging Dou Qi was an extremely strong attack which he brewed!

Xiao Yan also sensed this increasingly wild, violently Dou Qi cluster. He immediately clenched his fist and a suction force surged out, sucking that Heavy Xuan Ruler, that was wrapped in dark-green flame suspended in mid-air, into his hand. He let out a deep breath, and the Dou Qi within his body was also being wildly extracted at this moment!

With the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan's body unceasingly pouring into the Heavy Xuan Ruler, the dark-black ruler's body gradually turned into a jade-green color. Moreover, the temperature on it was repeatedly rising.

The pouring in of the Dou Qi continued until a certain moment before it finally came to a sudden stop. At this moment, the Heavy Xuan Ruler was already like an emerald ruler, appearing extremely beautiful. However, the energy that seeped out of this ruler trembled slightly, causing the surrounding air to become hazy.

Xiao Yan raised his head to observe Han Feng in the distance as he held the ruler's hilt tightly with both hands. A moment later, a cluster of surging Dou Qi had already unleashed an eye-piercing intense glow that was just like a small scale sun that no one dared to look directly at.

"Little bastard, go and die!"

Han Feng's eyes stared intently at the cluster of sun-like Dou Qi in his hand. A moment later, he suddenly raised his head. His face was covered with a savage insanity. With a brutal cry, the cluster of majestic sun-like Dou Qi shot explosively toward Xiao Yan.

"Radiance Seal!"

An eye-piercing light drew across the sky. The light faintly revealed a large palm that appeared to be a sun falling from the sky as it carried a frightening energy that caused one's hairs to stand on end!

"Flame Splitting Tsunami!"

The emerald-like Heavy Xuan Ruler was lifted high above Xiao Yan's head. An instant later, both of his arms suddenly hacked down with great force. A hundred-foot-long emerald energy glow shot out explosively from the tip of the ruler. That stance was as though it wanted to split the

ground. Its momentum was frightening!

The two extremely frightening energies zoomed through the sky like lightning. Finally, they became like two meteorites as they collided violently together in front of a countless number of shocked gazes!

“Bang!”

The moment they came into contact, a frighteningly loud rolling-thunder energy ripple began to set off an energy wave that spread all over the sky, much like a stormy sea.

The entire area became silent at this moment. The roiling energy waves were earth-shattering. Even the sun that floated high in the sky was shadowed by this energy at this very moment.

The energy remained in a stalemate for nearly ten minutes before it gradually scattered. Countless numbers of people within the city were still completely silent. Each and every one of their faces contained some shock. If the explosion from those two attacks had occurred in the city, it was likely that this Feng City would have turned into flat land in an extremely short period of time.

This kind of terrifying destructive force was something that one could rarely see even during a decisive battle between peak Dou Huangs!

The energy wave that spread through the sky slowly scattered. The two bodies in the sky were slowly revealed. Han Feng was at this moment a little better. Although his hair was messy and his breathing was somewhat hurried, he did not suffer much damage from the backlash of the energy. On the other hand, Xiao Yan's face was pale-white. Even his breathing had become much weaker during this collision.

Looking at the gap between the two, it was obvious that Han Feng had the upper hand in this collision.

“Ha ha, junior, it looks like your strength is not as tough as your mouth. Why? Your Dou Qi is exhausted just as we were starting? Looks like this senior has really overestimated you!” Han Feng was also startled when he saw Xiao Yan's pale face. He could not help but laugh out loud.

Xiao Yan glanced at Han Feng who was laughing out loud with a lifted head. The corner of his mouth was curled slightly as he spoke with a faint smile, "Isn't it a little too early for you to be so happy?"

Han Feng revealed a cold laugh filled with disdain when he heard that Xiao Yan still had a tough mouth. He could clearly sense that the other party's aura had become much weaker. Clearly, he had received quite serious injuries from the collision earlier. However, the smile on his face had not continued for long when it stiffened following Xiao Yan's subsequent action.

Xiao Yan slowly raised his hand in the distance. A deep-green glow gradually surfaced on his hand. An instant later, the green glow flew out, and a flawless emerald fire lotus the size of a palm immediately surfaced on Xiao Yan's palm.

"Hu... creating this thing still exhausts so much Dou Qi." Xiao Yan stared at the emerald-like fire lotus before raising his head and laughing at Han Feng, who had suddenly stiffened.

"Senior, you will suffer the same loss twice. Looks like I have also overestimated you..."

At this moment, Han Feng's expression had instantly turned extremely ugly!

# Chapter 640: Emerald Fire Lotus

The fire lotus may have only been the size of a palm, but it was even more frightening in Han Feng's eyes than the enormous ruler glow from earlier that had basically spanned the entire sky. This was because it was this damn thing nearly cost him his life two years earlier!

The current flame was no longer the green-white color back then. Its entire emerald-like color appeared even more beautiful. However, Han Feng understood that this current fire lotus was likely even more frightening than the one back then!

The strongest 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' shape in the past was merged from the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' and the 'Bone Chilling Flame.' Since the 'Bone Chilling Flame' was ranked a little higher on the 'Heavenly Flame Ranking' compared to the 'Fallen Heart Flame', it seemed that this current merger was weaker than that of the past from a certain point of view. However, the 'Bone Chilling Flame' was Yao Lao's 'Heavenly Flame'. Even though Xiao Yan could control it, it was basically impossible for him to reach the familiarity he had with the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'. Therefore, the merger of those two 'Heavenly Flames' would more or less have some conflict. Although this kind of conflict was difficult to sense under the suppression of Xiao Yan's powerful Spiritual Strength, it would still limited some of the strength of the fire lotus.

However, things were different now. The 'Green Lotus Core Flame' and the 'Fallen Heart Flame' were completely refined by Xiao Yan. It was much smoother for him to control it. When the current Xiao Yan used the two kinds of flame to merge an 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' the exhaustion of his Dou Qi or Spiritual Strength was much less than before. Moreover, the strength wasn't even the slightest bit reduced. Moreover, speaking from a certain point of view, the merger of these two kinds of flames without any gap caused the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' strength to reach an extremely great degree.

Therefore, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' might not be comparable to the 'Bone Chilling Flame' on the 'Heavenly Flame Ranking', but the strength

of the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' created was not the least bit weaker than back then!

Han Feng could vaguely sense the current strength of this emerald-like fire lotus by relying on his outstanding Spiritual Strength. Therefore, his expression gradually grew darker and more solemn. He understood that he had once again been tricked by Xiao Yan.

The strength of the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' may be extremely great, but it required quite a lot of strength to agglomerate. If the merger was interrupted during this period of time, the fire lotus would naturally fail to merge successfully. However, Xiao Yan had used the collision between the 'Flame Splitting Tsunami' and the 'Radiance Seal' earlier as cover as he quietly completed the merger of the fire lotus. It was little wonder why his expression would be so pale after the energy scattered. It was not because he had received a backlash during the collision, but because he had agglomerated the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame'!

Xiao Yan smiled as he watched the dark and solemn expression of Han Feng. He lowered his head to watch the slowly rotating emerald fire lotus above his palm. His heart was hissing and sobbing a little. This was the first time he had completely relied on his own strength to create this large-scale strong fire lotus ever since he created the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame'. The strongest 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' form which he had used in the past not only relied on the support of Yao Lao's Spiritual Strength, but also needed to borrow a wisp of 'Bone Chilling Flame' in order to completely use it. Now, however...

Xiao Yan gently dragged out the fire lotus in his hand. A pleased arc was lifted from the corner of his mouth. It appeared that the pain he had suffered underground during these two years had allowed him to obtain quite the good results...

Xiao Yan raised his head and watched the dark and solemn face of Han Feng. He smiled and his finger gently flicked the fire lotus. The latter immediately drifted out slowly...

The emerald fire lotus strangely began to expand upon leaving Xiao

Yan's hand. Within the short blink of an eye, its palm-like size was expanded until it was around five feet wide. Raging dark-green flames rose on it and set it off like a lotus platform that buddha sat on. It appeared holy, and secretly contained a frightening destructive strength.

After the emerald fire lotus expanded until it was around five feet wide, the surrounding space began to fluctuate abruptly. Numerous dark-black tiny tendrils spread out into the sky. The strength that was contained in the fire lotus had actually reached the frightening point of shaking space!

Quite a number of small black-colored tendrils repeatedly appeared from all around as one watched the fire lotus rotate slowly. Han Feng's eyes suddenly shrank tightly in the distance. This frightening destructive strength was something that caused even him to feel uneasy. If he were struck by this attack, it was likely that he would be killed on the spot!

"Damn fellow!"

Han Feng clenched his teeth violently. He did not dare to slight it even a little. A low, deep roar suddenly sounded from his throat, and the deep-blue flame from within his body erupted out unceasingly. Finally, it transformed into a deep-blue fire sea that was around seventy to eighty feet wide. His body was at the middle of this sea of fire. Flames churned all around him, emitting the loud sound of ocean waves slapping against rocks, causing everyone's hearts to feel some pressure. That feeling was as though they were alone in the face of a never ending large sea, causing people to be unable to pick up the courage to resist.

The blue flame spread over the sky and a high temperature covered the area. Some of those experts who were stronger were a little better off, but for the rest, perspiration rained down their bodies. Some of those who were even weaker felt their eyes become white before they fell head first to the ground.

A 'Heavenly Flame' possessed the frightening strength to change the environment. These words were indeed true. With Han Feng using his full strength to maneuver it, the surroundings of this Feng City immediately appeared as though it had experienced a drought for a long time. Even the

water in the air was completely vaporized. The dry air caused people to feel a dry pain in their throats each time they inhaled air into their bodies.

“Go...”

Under Han Feng’s gaze, Xiao Yan flicked his finger and the slowly turning large green fire lotus trembled before it shot forward with an ear piercing sound. With a green light, it flew towards the blue fire with heated winds.

“Sea Heart Magical Beast!”

Han Feng watched the emerald flowing light that shot explosively over with a serious expression. His palm moved and a cry yelled out from his throat. Immediately, that enormous sea of fire churned intensely. The flame whizzed and rotated before actually becoming an extremely large dark-blue beast!

The appearance of this enormous beast caused some blood color to disappear from Han Feng’s face. Clearly, this thing exhausted quite a bit of Dou Qi.

The size of the enormous beast was large, and was not the least bit smaller than the fighting form of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’. Its shape was like a lion, but it possessed a large scorpion-like tail. A deep-blue-colored horn, that protruded from its head, displayed a flickering blue glow. The horn would occasionally sway and tiny black scars would surface in the empty space.

Xiao Yan was also startled when the large head of the deep-blue enormous lion-like fire beast appeared. It was unexpected that Han Feng’s control over the ‘Sea Heart Flame’ had already reached such a stage in the two years they had not met. Xiao Yan questioned himself, and found that it was likely that even the current him would have difficulty using a ‘Heavenly Flame’ to agglomerate and form such a complex beast shape.

Xiao Yan was shocked, but the emerald fire lotus which had already locked onto its target did not hesitate. It appeared to have teleported, and within a couple of flashes, it was only a short distance from Han Feng. The

frightening wind was something that caused even the deep blue sea of fire spread throughout the sky to form some ripples.

“Gi!”

Han Feng’s expression was extremely solemn as he stared at the large fire lotus that was coming at him head-on. The seal on his hand changed, and with a low cry, the large fire lion, that had been agglomerated from his own strength, raised its head and emitted a loud thunder-like roar. Its four hooves moved immediately as it became tank-like, and fearlessly charged toward the fire lotus!

The distance between the two was instantly covered. Immediately, the two frightening energies, which were enough to incinerate the mountains and boil the seas, collided with a bang, like meteors, in front of Han Feng’s and Xiao Yan’s tense minds!

“Bang!”

The entire sky was momentarily silent when the two made contact. Immediately, the natural energy began to become violent. Multicolored energy flew all over the sky. At a glance, it seemed as though they were wildly fleeing the area where the collision occurred...

The sudden uprising of the energy in the area also caused all the experts in the sky to suddenly cease their actions. Numerous gazes carried shock that was difficult to hide as they watched this area that had suddenly turned into a vacuum of space. The terrifying energy ripples which seeped out from the fire lotus and the fire beast caused their hearts to be filled with fear. If this energy were to touch their bodies, it was likely that their bodies and bones would burst apart on the spot.

“Bang!”

The silence merely lasted for an instant before a catastrophic energy storm erupted from the center!

The frightening fire energy storm spread and covered an area that was over a hundred meters in radius. Even the people from both sides of the chaotic battle in the sky moved their bodies and fled in all directions in a

miserable manner. They clearly understood that if they were to be struck by this thing, it was likely that they would suffer despite their strength.

Therefore, a comical scene appeared. The fiery hot chaotic battle that was raging in the sky had, at this very moment, turned into a scene of frightened birds fleeing. Everyone abruptly fled the area. All that remained was a countless number of stunned gazes on the ground.

Su Qian struck his palm out and a powerful force shook the Gold Silver Brothers until they stepped back rapidly. A faint paleness also surfaced on the latter's faces. Although they could contend with an elite Dou Zong by joining hands, they would still end up losing if things really did drag on. In the past, Han Feng would have long escaped from the opponents pestering him to come and help them deal with Su Qian. Now, however, not only was he held back by Xiao Yan until he could not leave, but there was also the taste of him not being able to even protect himself. As more time passed, it was only a matter of time before the two of them would be defeated in Su Qian's hands.

Su Qian smiled coldly as he observed the Gold Silver Brothers whose faces were alternating between white and green. Su Qian did not grab his advantage and give chase. He turned around and watched the center of the frightening firestorm with a solemn expression. This kind of energy collision was something that caused even someone of his strength to feel afraid.

"I have really underestimated Xiao Yan. He was actually able to delay Han Feng even in such a situation... however, I wonder who will be victorious in the end."

Su Qian glanced at the frightening firestorm. He clearly understood in his heart that the victor would be determined after this exchange. He was unable to decide just who would laugh in the end...

"Ugh, hopefully it will be that little fellow..."

# Chapter 641: Your Life Is Mine!

The frightening firestorm spread horizontally across the sky. Its hot temperature caused the air in this area to become extremely dry. Powerful fire ripples turned into a fire curtain that spread about, occupying over half of the space. This resulted in one's vision becoming distorted and blurry at this moment.

Countless numbers of gazes were stunned as they watched the firestorm that swept across the sky. Despite being a great distance away, they still felt their legs become wobbly. If this kind of explosion had been a little lower, it was likely that this city would have turned into a graveyard in an extremely short period of time!

The strong from both sides who had been engaging in an intense great battle in the sky earlier had all descended from the sky in panic. Staying high in the sky during this period of time when even the natural energy had become violent was an extremely foolish thing. Once one was struck by the firestorm... one's fate would be extremely miserable.

"This Xiao Yan fellow... is really becoming more and more frightening." Lin Yan wiped the perspiration on his face while standing on the peak of a mountain as he spoke with a bitter smile to Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing by the side. The three of them were currently Elders of the Inner Academy. Therefore, they would naturally be involved in such a large scale battle. The three of them had joined hands to hold back an elite Dou Huang earlier. Although they ended up in a miserable state by the sharp attacks of the latter, they had successfully ended up delaying him.

Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing sighed and nodded while sharing the same feeling when they heard Lin Yan's bitter laugh. It had only been a short two years, but the new student who had to call them senior when they met back then already possessed the strength to contend head-on with a top expert of the 'Black-Corner Region'. Such a transformation really caused people to sigh emotionally. Liu Qing possessed an extremely deep feeling toward this. Back then, Xiao Yan had gone all out to fight until he was seriously injured and unconscious in the arena battle back then only to

end up with a situation in which both of them were defeated with serious injuries. From the looks of things now... it was likely that Xiao Yan would be able to easily finish him off within five exchanges...

Liu Qing also let out a bitter laugh when he thought of this. His heart could not help but utter a word of submission to Xiao Yan. Such a frightening training speed already had nothing to do with training talent. It was completely decided by one's lucky opportunities...

Xiao Li's figure rushed out on a treetop not far from the three of them. His expression was a little worried as he watched the firestorm that had basically covered the entire sky. Even though he had confidence in Xiao Yan, he could not help but feel uneasy in the face of such a frightening energy collision. After all, that Han Feng was not an ordinary person. During the two years he had muddled along within the 'Black-Corner Region', he had been repeatedly inquiring about information on the 'Black Alliance'. However, he had never received the slightest news that Han Feng was about to enter the Dou Zong class. However, the true strength that the latter was currently displaying really caused most people to be shocked.

"Xiao-yan-zi, you better be alright. Otherwise, how can I have the face to see your big brother." Xiao Li rubbed his hands together. He could only pray that Xiao Yan would have sufficient luck to escape from the firestorm at this moment.

A countless number of gazes relaxed when they raised their heads to see the firestorm that spread through the sky was some distance away now that they had fled from it. Private conversations quietly sounded. Clearly, everyone wanted to know whether it would be Xiao Yan or Han Feng who would be the one to successfully flee this firestorm.

The spreading firestorm finally began to gradually disappear in front of numerous gazes after having spread an extremely great distance. However, there was still not the slightest activity of the two human figures within it.

The sky was void of activity, and the people on the ground did not dare to emit any loud sound. They looked at each other and their faces changed

slightly. Did the both of them perish within the firestorm?

Su Qian did not blink his eyes as he stared at the middle of the firestorm in the sky. Despite his strength, he was totally unaware of the situation within it at this very moment. Therefore, he could do nothing other than pray.

While everyone was staring with expressions of loss, there was suddenly a rushing wind sound that appeared in the vast sky. A human figure immediately shot out explosively from the storm.

The human figure that had suddenly appeared immediately gathered the gazes of everyone present. Although the human figure was shooting out at a very fast speed, there were still some sharp-eyed people who could identify him. Immediately, joyous voices sounded.

“It’s the Alliance Head! He is alive!”

The tensed up faces of those from the ‘Black Alliance’ immediately became much more relax upon hearing these joyous cries. Some smiles faintly appeared on their faces. Since the last person who survived was Han Feng, it was likely that the Inner Academy would withdraw miserably with ashen faces. They would also have gained an additional capital to boost to the other factions in the ‘Black-Corner Region’. After all, which other factions within the ‘Black-Corner Region’ other than the ‘Black Alliance’ had managed to beat the Inner Academy?

The faces of those from the Inner Academy instantly became ugly compared to the pleased look of those from the ‘Black Alliance’. They clenched their teeth and the atmosphere appeared exceptionally pressuring due to the silence.

Xiao Li’s eyes had suddenly become completely red when he heard the loud cry of those from the ‘Black Alliance’. A savage killing intent slowly climbed onto his cold face. He had already decided in his heart. If any mishap were to happen to Xiao Yan, he would get Han Feng to pay a price in blood today even if he had to stake his life.

“Everyone, don’t act disorderly. There is something not quite right!” Su Qian’s cry suddenly sounded when everyone’s mood had sunk. They were

somewhat stunned as they raised their heads, only to see that Su Qian was focused intently on Han Feng who was shooting down from the sky. Everyone's gaze followed his to look over and they too sensed that something was wrong. Although Han Feng had escaped from the firestorm, the posture in which he landed on the ground seemed to be one where he fell from the sky after being violently kicked.

“Chi!”

The sharp sound of rushing wind once again reverberated across the sky while everyone was feeling uncertain in their hearts. The firestorm that spread through the sky suddenly trembled. Immediately, a black figure rushed out from within it. The dark-green fire wings were exceptionally eye catching in the sky.

“It's Xiao Yan! He hasn't died!”

The Inner Academy's experts who were dispirited immediately cheered when they saw those familiar fire wings.

The savageness on Xiao Li's face slowly withdrew as he watched the familiar fire wings with a stunned expression. His heart finally sighed heavily as he bitterly laughed, “This fellow... really doesn't allow one to relax.”

With the appearance of Xiao Yan's figure, the originally proud and laughing people from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ became just like ducks with their throats pinched. Their laughter suddenly ceased, and the expressions on their faces appeared exceptionally comical.

The black figure's jade-green wings flapped in the sky, and his body turned into a dark-green glow that swiftly shot down toward Han Feng who was falling rapidly to the ground. In the blink of an eye, the black figure appeared above Han Feng's head in front of the shocked gazes of all the experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’.

“Little bastard, you dare...”

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at Han Feng whose internal Dou Qi was blocked because of the backlash from the flame. A dark-green flame

wildly surged over his fist. The fist immediately contained an incomparably fierce force as it ruthlessly smashed into his chest!

“A traitor who betrays his teacher deserves to die!”

Xiao Yan’s furious roar reverberated unceasingly across the sky as his fist ruthlessly smashed down.

“Bang!”

A low, deep sound from the contact of flesh was suddenly emitted across the sky, causing the hearts of a countless number of people to violently contract at this moment.

“Grug!”

A mouthful of fresh, red blood was spat out of Han Feng’s mouth upon receiving such a heavy blow without any defenses. His body appeared to have become like a bird with its wings broken as it weakly fell to the ground. Finally, he heavily smashed into some plains just outside Feng City in front of a countless number of shocked gazes.

Xiao Yan’s face was covered with fresh blood. His chest rose and fell rapidly as his wings flapped slightly. A weak feeling was repeatedly emitted from his body, indicating that he had already reached his limit.

Xiao Yan flapped the increasingly illusory wings on his back as his eyes stared intently at the unmoving Han Feng who had smashed into the ground, forming an enormous pit. He could sense that the latter’s breath might be extremely weak, but had not completely disappeared.

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth ruthlessly as he shook his hand. An enormous Heavy Xuan Ruler flashed and appeared. His hands held it tightly as he flapped the wings on his back. He circulated the little remaining Dou Qi in his body and shot explosively toward Han Feng, who was lying on the ground with his last lingering breath. The aim was to give the latter a finishing blow!

“Save the Alliance Head!”

Xiao Yan’s action were instantly sensed by the experts from the ‘Black-

Corner Region'. Their faces immediately changed drastically as a stern cry immediately sounded. They clearly understood the importance of Han Feng to the 'Black Alliance'. If they lost Han Feng, it was likely that the large alliance would collapse!

“Stop them!”

Su Qian let out a cold cry the moment the experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' moved. All the Inner Academy Elders who had long been waiting for an order immediately moved. They formed a human wall outside of Feng City. Numerous powerful auras rose and forced back those people from the 'Black-Corner Region' who were attempting a rescue.

Xiao Yan flashed and appeared just a couple of dozen feet above Han Feng's head by relying on the blocking action performed by the Elders of the Inner Academy. He raised his heavy ruler high above his head and did not hesitate as he used the most vicious method to smash it at Han Feng's head. That momentum was such that if it struck, it was likely that Han Feng would die on the spot despite his strength!

“Tsk tsk, Han Feng was indeed right. Yao Sheng's spiritual body is indeed in this little fellow's body!”

A ghastly strange laugh suddenly sounded in the sky the moment the heavy ruler smashed down. Immediately, a cluster of black fog strangely surfaced on the plains.

“Clang!”

The black fog had just appeared when a dark-black chain that contained a deep luster suddenly shot out from the black fog. The metal chain's speed was extremely frightening. It was not far from Xiao Yan in an instant. The end of the metal chain was as sharp as a blade, and an unusual cold glint faintly seeped out from it.

At this moment, Xiao Yan had also ran out of steam. Swinging the ruler and unleashing his final attack toward Han Feng had already completely exhausted all his strength. Hence, he actually did not have the slightest strength to dodge the metal chain that was shooting toward him!

Xiao Yan turned his head with great difficulty. The thing that was imprinted in his eyes was that a somewhat unusual black, enormous metal chain...

“This is... those fellows from the ‘Hall of Souls’?” The cluster of black fog shaped like a human figure was similar to what he had seen in the ‘Great Plains of the Black-Corner Region’ swiftly flashed across his mind. This attacking method and the person in front of him were nearly identical!

The dark-black metal chain did not stop because Xiao Yan had guessed its identity. That cluster of black fog was extremely vicious in its attack. Hence, it had unleashed a killing move the moment it attacked! If this chain were to strike Xiao Yan’s body, it was likely that his life would be immediately taken!

“It is really unexpected... that I will end up dying in the hands of these fellows.” Xiao Yan sighed with extreme fatigue in his heart. A bitterness seeped out from the corner of his mouth as he slowly shut his eyes. In this kind of situation, even Su Qian would not be able to save him in time...

“Chi!”

“Your life is mine!”

The chain arrived quickly. However, just as it was about to penetrate Xiao Yan’s heart, an ice-cold, numbing voice could suddenly be heard behind his ear. Immediately, a delicate, gentle, boneless-like hand surfaced in a strange manner and grabbed the chain firmly!

# Chapter 642: Reappearance of the Hall of Souls

The delicate hand appeared to have extended from empty space. It did not cause any fluctuations. It looked gentle and weak, yet it contained an extremely strong and fierce strength that grabbed the metal chain until the point where it could not move.

The sudden help also caused everyone to be startled. Their gazes followed that flawless hand, and slowly shifted. Finally, a beauty with a lovely sexy figure and a nearly perfect bewitching face appeared in front of all their gazes.

Demon!

TL: In chinese mythology, a female demon is usually extremely beautiful and would occasionally bewitch men

This was the feeling that the woman gave to others at first glance with the exception of her icy-cold face. The merging of coldness and enchantment caused her to possess an unusual allure that had a deep impact on men. Her snow-white chin formed a slightly sharp incline that caused her entire body to be filled with a pride that was difficult to hide. This kind of pride was not an ordinary woman's arrogance, but an honorable haughtiness that only a woman who possessed a high status could display.

The thing that possessed the greatest attraction to men was this haughtiness. A man would possess an incomparable satisfaction the moment he pushed down such a haughty and distinguished woman. Of course, if one was in a delirious state, this satisfaction would be greatly reduced. One example was Xiao Yan back then...

Everyone was stunned for quite a while when they saw that the person who had appeared to stop the chain attack was actually such a beautiful and bewitching woman. They might be stunned, but no one present was an ordinary person. From the looks of the strange manner in which she

had appeared, it seemed that her strength might be stronger than anyone else present.

The sharp portion at the end of the metal chain paused at a spot half an inch from Xiao Yan's head. The cold glint that faintly seeped out from it caused the latter's body to be filled with tiny goosebumps. He could imagine that his head would turn into a watermelon that fell on the ground, bursting into countless number of pieces with a bang, if the action to stop the chain had been an instant later.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the tip of the metal chain that had been magnified by a countless number of times in his eyes. His throat rolled a little as he turned his head with great difficulty. The ice-cold face of Queen Medusa immediately appeared in his eyes.

"You..." Xiao Yan's mouth moved. He did not expect that the one who took action to rescue him would actually be the Queen Medusa who had been after his life. Did she really possess complicated feelings toward him after that incident?

Queen Medusa's eyes did not even move a little while this thought was lingering in Xiao Yan's heart. Her other free delicate hand merely flipped and violently slammed against Xiao Yan's chest without any mercy. The large force caused the latter's completely exhausted body to be shaken until he took over ten steps back before sitting down on the ground, looking extremely miserable.

Xiao Yan grabbed his chest and let out a few soft coughs after sitting onto the ground. What did this damn woman want to do? She wanted to rescue him yet she was this blunt. If the palm was a little stronger earlier, it was likely that it would have been able to kill him.

"How unfortunate. Just a little more and that bastard will be killed!" Xiao Yan's gaze turned to Han Feng, who was lying on the ground with a breath remaining. He spoke regretfully within his heart. The current him was already completely exhausted. Although all he needed to do was use the ruler to slam against that fellow in order to kill him, the current him did not even have the strength to stand up.

While Xiao Yan's eyes were filled with a limitless regret, Queen Medusa, who was grabbing the metal chain, suddenly lowered her head and glanced at Han Feng whom she did not know was dead or alive. She knit her eyebrows and appeared to hate that a man was this close to her. She immediately raised her long, sleek legs in front of a countless number of gazes and heavily kicked Han Feng's waist.

This kick may appear random, but the sharp wind created by her toes when it was swung smashed and formed quite a large pit on the ground. Clearly, this kick was something that could even cause a lively elite Dou Huang to feel terrible, much less Han Feng, who was seriously injured.

The entire plains descended into a silence when the leg was swung.

“Bang!”

The delicate leg firmly imprinted itself on Han Feng's waist in front of a countless number of stunned gazes. The frightening strength was like a surging flood at this moment. Everyone immediately saw that Han Feng's body was kicked into the air with a deep muffled sound before finally drawing a parabola across the sky and landing hard on the ground. There was coincidentally a huge rock where he landed. The sound of bones breaking was extremely ear-piercing in this quiet plains.

At this moment, nearly everyone believed that it was likely that Han Feng would have difficulty keeping his life even if he was reborn from someone extremely strong.

“Good! What a damn great kick!”

Xiao Yan, who appeared paralyzed as he sat also watched Queen Medusa's sudden action with a stunned expression. Only when Han Feng heavily smashed against the enormous rock did he recover. A wild joy surfaced on his face. His hand slammed violently onto the ground and his face was flushed red. He could not control the excitement within his heart as he erupted with a series of vulgarities.

However, his curses had just sounded when a pair of bright, ice-cold eyes suddenly shot over like sharp blades, causing him to instantly shut his mouth. He gave an awkward smile and his buttocks shifted back without

leaving a trace, afraid that the Queen Medusa who killed people like killing chickens would also give him a kick. With his current condition, it was likely that his end would not be much better than Han Feng if he were to suffer a kick.

Everyone on the plain, regardless of whether it was the experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' or the Inner Academy, were all completely dumbfounded. No one had expected that the peak expert who had dominated the 'Black-Corner Region' would actually be kicked to death by a woman? This... this seemed a little too comical, right?

Su Qian's gaze firmly focused on Queen Medusa from the distant sky. Other people might not have sensed it but he was able to sense that the latter's random kick seemed to contain some killing intent. Clearly, that kick she gave Han Feng did not hold the thought of simply clearing the place but... it was likely that she really wanted to kill Han Feng.

"Don't tell me that she also held a grudge against Han Feng? Why have I not heard that there was someone like her in the 'Black-Corner Region'?" Su Qian muttered doubtfully.

"Tsk tsk, how unexpected. This Han Feng would actually end up dying in the hands of a woman. If such a hopelessly stupid method of dying for him were to spread, it will really cause others to die from laughter." An ear-piercing strange laugh was emitted from the cluster of black fog, which expanded and shrank in a volatile manner. A ripple was immediately emitted from the black fog and an unusual dark-black energy surged out. It followed the chain as it swept toward Queen Medusa.

Queen Medusa's gaze was cold and indifferent as she watched the energy surging over. She shook her delicate hand and a seven-colored energy poured out unceasingly. Finally, it collided with that black-colored energy at the middle spot of the chain. A wild and ferocious ripple erupted from the point of contact and destroyed all the grass of the plains nearby,

Although the chain underwent such a powerful explosive force, it did not show any sign of breaking. Clearly this thing was not an ordinary item.

"Huala!"

Queen Medusa suddenly released her hand during the explosion. The black-colored chain suddenly turned around with a clever effort, before transforming into a vague black line that shot explosively toward the cluster of black fog.

“Chi!”

The black-colored chain passed through that cluster of black fog, causing it to ripple swiftly. It was a long while later before the ear-piercing voice that carried some gloominess was emitted, “Who are you? You actually dare to meddle with the affairs of our ‘Hall of Souls’?”

“His life is mine. No one else has the right to take it.” Those pretty eyes stared at the cluster of black fog in the distance as Queen Medusa spoke faintly, “I can give his corpse to you if I kill him one day. It is not possible now.’

“Hei, what arrogant words. You are the first person in so many years who dares to speak such words to our ‘Hall of Souls’!”

“Get lost. You won’t have the opportunity to attack today.” Queen Medusa completely ignored him. Her voice was still blunt and ice-cold. During the short exchange earlier, she already possessed some understanding of the other party’s strength. If the other party’s energy had not been a little strange, she would have longed killed him. Why would she need to speak so many unnecessary words?

“Tsk ts, what an arrogant woman. My luck is indeed not bad today. However, my mission is not to kill that little brat. It is sufficient as long as I acquire that Yao Chen’s spirit is in his body! Moreover, thanks to you, I do have something to acquire.” The strange laugh was emitted from the black fog before it immediately moved. The figure suddenly flashed, and in a couple of breaths, it appeared beside Han Feng’s breathless corpse. He let out a strange ‘tsk ts’ laugh and an unusual suction force erupted. A somewhat transparent spiritual body slowly rose from Han Feng’s corpse following the appearance of this suction force. Finally, it was absorbed into that black fog and disappeared.

“Tsk ts, a tier 6 alchemist spirit. This is really quite a great acquisition.”

That awful voice sounded with some satisfaction after absorbing Han Feng's spirit into that black fog. The black fog immediately moved and from a distance, Xiao Yan could sense a pair of eyes sweeping over him from within it.

"Brat, I shall allow Yao Chen's spirit to stay in your body for a period of time. At that time, our 'Hall of Souls' will come and acquire it. Tsk tsk..."

Xiao Yan's expression was somewhat gloomy as he observed the strange cluster of black fog that was drifting aimlessly. He had finally been locked onto by this mysterious organization...

"Enjoy your remaining time. Tsk tsk. At that time, even this woman might not be able to protect you!" A strange laugh sounded from varying distances. That cluster of black fog was just like a ghost. It flashed a couple of times before disappearing from the plains in front of a countless number of gazes...

Xiao Yan's eyes watched the vague black fog that had disappeared into the distance. He suddenly grit his teeth and stood up. His footsteps staggered toward Han Feng's corpse. His palm touched the latter's skin and his expression sank a moment later, "Dammit. The 'Sea Heart Flame' has also been taken away along with the soul!"

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth ruthlessly before his eyes glanced at the dark-blue ring on Han Feng's finger. The flickering faint blue glint indicated the difference between this storage ring and a low grade storage ring.

# Chapter 643: Serene Sea Storage Ring

“He is indeed worthy of being the Alliance Head of the ‘Black Alliance’ by actually carrying such a high grade storage ring.”

Xiao Yan lifted the corner of his mouth and unceremoniously took that deep-blue storage ring from Han Feng’s finger. Storage rings were divided into high and low grades. A high grade storage ring was extremely rare. It was an object in great demand that no supplier, even the auction houses of the ‘Black-Corner Region,’ could fill. Even Xiao Yan had never worn a high grade storage ring in all these years. He could only improvise, and barely manage by using a low grade storage ring.

In the past, Xiao Yan did not have a very great requirement for storage rings. However, he had begun to pay more attention to this ever since that storage ring cracked apart in a baffling manner during his training. He had always stored some precious objects within his storage ring. The last time around, he was fortunate to have the isolation of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame,’ which had prevented him from losing his precious objects. However, it was difficult to be certain of such good luck. Hence, it would indeed reassure him if he were able to possess a high grade storage ring. After all, a high grade storage ring was much greater than a low grade storage ring whether it was in terms of firmness or safety.

Xiao Yan played with the deep-blue storage ring in his hand. He tried probing into it with his Spiritual Strength, but was surprised to realize that his Spiritual Strength was repelled by the storage ring.

“It is indeed worthy of being a high grade storage ring to actually possess such a protection.” Xiao Yan parted his mouth and smiled. He vaguely understood that a high grade storage ring would allow the owner to place a spiritual imprint on it. In this way, if anyone luckily obtained the storage ring and wanted to take out the things within, one had to remove that spiritual imprint first. The owner of the storage ring would sense it if he attempted to do so. Such an automatic defensive ability was something that only a high grade storage ring possess. It was also one of the greatest reasons for its price to soar greatly.

From a certain point of view, Han Feng was currently dead. Hence, Xiao Yan naturally need not be worried of him sensing anything. A fierce Spiritual Strength instantly surged out and used the most brutal method to remove the spiritual imprint that Han Feng had left behind. After which, he immediately placed his own imprint onto it. In this way, the high grade storage ring had officially changed owners!

Xiao Yan was satisfied as he placed the deep-blue storage ring on his finger. His mind moved and his Spiritual Strength entered the storage ring without any hindrances...

The probing merely lasted for a moment before Xiao Yan slowly withdrew his mind from the storage ring. At this moment, his eyes contained a joy that was difficult to hide. The things that Han Feng had collected within the 'Black-Corner Region' were really difficult to count. There were quite a number of various rare medicinal ingredients present within the storage ring. Moreover, there were also various scrolls containing Qi Methods and Dou Techniques randomly placed inside it. Clearly these were items given by various people who had begged him to refine a pill.

Although he had merely took a hurried glance, the rich collection within the storage ring caused Xiao Yan to feel extremely excited. He might not have ultimately obtained the most important 'Sea Heart Flame' when he killed Han Feng this time around, but he had obtained all of Han Feng's fortune. The treasures stored within this deep-blue high grade storage ring were sufficient enough to cause any expert within the 'Black-Corner Region' to become crazy.

Queen Medusa's gaze was still icy-cold as she looked at Xiao Yan who was laughing away while hugging the storage ring. She knit her eyebrows slightly, and she sighed in anguish within her heart. If she had stood idly by the side today, Xiao Yan would have had difficulty escaping death. In that case, she would have gotten revenge for her hatred toward him because of the profane act he had committed against her. However, her indifferent heart had suddenly beat wildly in the nick of time. A faint pull from deep within her spirit caused her to ultimately intervene...

“Dammit. This Queen will kill you personally sooner or later!”

Medusa clenched her silver teeth with hatred. She clearly understood in her heart that given her old character, it was likely that she would add fuel to the fire by shifting the position of the attacking chain such that it was more fatal. There was no need to even mention helping Xiao Yan. However, these various hesitations that she currently felt was due to the merger of the two spirits. Although she had obtained absolute control of the body, the spirit of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ was also secretly affecting her. The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ had followed beside Xiao Yan for one or two years and was already quite attached to him. Such attachment had more or less caused some minor changes in Queen Medusa during the merger of spirits.

According to a normal situation, Queen Medusa should have left and returned to the Snake-People Race in the Vast Tager Desert now that she had merged with the spirit of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ and recovered her strength. Now, however, she continued to be around Xiao Yan. Such a situation was due to the influence of the attachment of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’.

Xiao Yan had also sensed something when Medusa’s icy gaze was staring at him. He raised his head and gave an embarrassed smile. His feet took a couple of steps back without leaving any trace. Although he did not understand why this person who desperately wanted to kill him would actually rescue him, he still felt a great fear for this Queen Medusa, who killed without blinking. This was especially so given that he was currently in his weakest condition where he did not even possess the strength to flee.

“Cough, that... Your Majesty, thank you very much for rescuing me this time around. Xiao Yan will remember this favor. I will definitely return it in the future if I have the chance to!” Xiao Yan smiled awkwardly in the face of the cold and emotionless Queen Medusa.

Queen Medusa totally ignored Xiao Yan’s embarrassed smile. Her gaze was indifferent as she stared at Xiao Yan. She gently tightened her delicate hand, and a colorful seven-colored energy slowly surged.

Perspiration immediately filled Xiao Yan's forehead upon seeing the actions of Queen Medusa. This woman was indeed temperamental. She had just rescued him, but she was now actually planning to attack him.

A rushing wind sound suddenly appeared in the sky just as Queen Medusa took a step forward. Su Qian's elderly figure appeared in front of Xiao Yan. His gaze was cautiously looking at Queen Medusa. Cupping his hands together, he said, "Expert, may I know who you are? Can you reveal your name. You might well be an old acquaintance of our Jia Nan Academy."

Xiao Yan immediately sighed in relief when Su Qian appeared. He carefully shifted his body behind him and softly said, "First Elder. Be careful. This woman changes her face faster than one flips a book."

The corner of Su Qian's mouth twitched involuntarily when he heard Xiao Yan's reminder. He really did not know how this fellow had provoked this person, causing her to chase after him bitterly. Moreover, the thing that caused Su Qian to be most dispirited was that this fellow had to go and provoke an expert of such level. If he were to fight with the woman in front of him, even Su Qian did not have more than a fifty-percent chance of victory. This could be seen from the way the other party had shaken and forced back someone from the 'Hall of Souls' with just a single attack.

Queen Medusa halted her footsteps after Su Qian appeared. She ignored his words as her gaze coldly looked at Xiao Yan. Her tone was icy cold, "You can only repay those things that you did to me with your life. This is the last time! I will definitely not show any mercy the next time around!"

Queen Medusa ignored the strange expression of Su Qian as she turned around and turned into a seven-colored flowing light that shot into the sky after speaking those words. After which, she swiftly disappeared.

Xiao Yan only wiped off the perspiration on his forehead when he saw Queen Medusa leave. He bitterly shook his head. Provoking such a woman really gave him a massive headache. It looked like he really needed to find some time to converse properly with her. Otherwise, just when would this endless chase end?

“You little fellow... you are really too bold. However, I am really curious. How did you manage to do those things to her given her strength?” Su Qian turned around and looked at Xiao Yan with strange eyes. He shook his head while clicking his tongue. With his great experience, he was able to detect something from those words of Queen Medusa earlier.

These words of Su Qian provoked Xiao Yan and got him to let out a few forceful coughs. He shook his head in embarrassment. He did not seem to have any other choice but to act confused at such a moment. It was not honorable to speak about forcefully taking a woman. Although this woman could not be viewed with ordinary eyes...

“Ugh, forget it. In any case, you should be more careful. This woman’s strength is really too frightening. Even I don’t have much chance of beating her.” Su Qian was helpless when he saw that Xiao Yan was unwilling to say anything. He ended up patting Xiao Yan’s shoulders and said those words.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded.

“Huh? Isn’t this the ‘Serene Sea Storage Ring’? You are really unceremonious. Back then, Han Feng had went through a great battle in order to obtain this storage ring. It is unexpected that you are now currently benefiting from it.” Su Qian’s gaze glanced at the dark-blue storage ring on Xiao Yan’s finger, and he immediately let out a surprised cry. His voice carried some envy within it.

Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and laughed, “It is but my victory prize.”

“The credit for defeating Han Feng is basically completely yours. Although that woman added the final kick, no one is going to fight with you for this thing.” Su Qian smiled. He immediately turned his gaze toward the wall of Feng City not far away which was packed with people. He said, “Han Feng is currently dead. I’m afraid that the ‘Black Alliance’ will automatically dissolve not long later. That thorn in my heart can finally disappear.”

Xiao Yan nodded slightly as he spoke somewhat regretfully,

“Unfortunately, I did not obtain the ‘Sea Heart Flame’. That flame had already been refined by Han Feng. Therefore, the ‘Sea Heart Flame’ was taken away when that fellow dragged away Han Feng’s spirit earlier.”

“It is already not bad that there is the ‘Serene Sea Storage Ring’ as compensation.” Su Qian shook his head. He slowly withdrew the smile on his face and said, “However, the most important thing now is that ‘Hall of Souls’ already have their eyes on you. That mysterious organization is not something that an ordinary faction can compare with.” Su Qian’s face involuntarily revealed a worry when he spoke up to this point. Clearly, he was also extremely afraid of the mysterious ‘Hall of Souls’.

Xiao Yan smiled and spoke calmly, “Even if they don’t come looking for me, I will end up looking for them sooner or later. This is something that I cannot escape from...”

Su Qian was startled. He studied Xiao Yan’s faint smiling face and nodded quietly. However, he did not pursue the matter until the end. All he did was pat Xiao Yan’s shoulders and sigh, “You should recuperate first. Take advantage of the time before that organization comes looking for you to raise your strength a little. In the future, you will know just how frightening they are...”

Su Qian turned around and slowly walked toward the exterior of the plains after saying this.

Xiao Yan watched Su Qian gradually disappearing figure and smiled. A day where he collided head on with the ‘Hall of Souls’ was something that was long within his expectations. However, the thing that caused him to rejoice was that the current him already possessed the strength to protect himself and Yao Lao. If he was at his peak condition today, he believed that he would be able to force back that cluster of strange black fog. The current him possessed such strength!

# Chapter 644: Retreat and Recuperation

The 'Black-Corner Region' gradually became calm after the intense great battle within Feng City passed. However, the strongest alliance within the 'Black-Corner Region', the 'Black Alliance', was showing signs of being on the verge of breaking up due to the various disagreements from the divide of profits.

The members within the 'Black Alliance' were all strong factions within the 'Black-Corner Region'. Most of these factions all carried some weight, and none of them were willing to submit to each other. Given Han Feng's reputation in the past, they were still able to endure Han Feng commanding them on the account of his extraordinary refining ability. However, Han Feng was currently dead. The 'Black Alliance' without its leader immediately turned into a headless housefly. That Alliance Head seat was something that everyone wanted to sit on, but no one was willing to submit to the others. After a couple of disputes and even a couple of fights, the relationship of the members of the 'Black Alliance' became increasingly worse. It was only a matter of time before they split up.

Originally, the Gold Silver Brothers had the ability to command them. However, they lost their courage to go against the Jia Nan Academy after the matter of Han Feng. Hence, they did not dare to stand out. These two old fellows had completely disappeared the day after Han Feng's death, leaving behind a completely chaotic 'Black Alliance'.

Even the strongest within the alliance had spread their legs and fled. The days of this 'Black Alliance' were indeed numbered. Within a short five days after the battle, it completely collapsed. Thus, the largest alliance faction within the 'Black-Corner Region' was no more.

The Inner Academy could finally truly sigh in relief once the 'Black Alliance' collapsed. The fight between the Jia Nan Academy and the 'Black-Corner Region' had ended with complete victory for the Inner Academy!

Of course, as the person with the greatest credit for the victory in this

fight, Xiao Yan's reputation did not only become incomparable among the students of the Jia Nan Academy but also among the Elders. Even the very senior First Elder would also stop, chat, and smile with this young person from the younger generation when he saw him. The true strength that Xiao Yan had displayed in that great battle had shaken every single person!

Of course, Xiao Yan was naturally not interested in how noisy the Inner Academy currently was. Ever since he had returned to the Inner Academy, he had entered a secret chamber to undertake a retreat and recuperate. Although he had successfully killed the other party in this big fight with Han Feng, he was also quite badly injured.

His recuperation this time around took an entire seven days. Only then did the injuries within Xiao Yan's body begin to gradually show signs of being completely healed. Moreover, this situation was because of the varying spiritual liquids that had accumulated in his body and the refining ability of the 'Heavenly Flame'. If it was an ordinary person, one would not be able to completely recover from such injuries without half a month or a full month's time. Moreover, one might have some long term sequelae from injuries inability to completely heal due to them being overly serious.

The Moonlight Stones that were inserted into the walls of a quiet secret chamber within 'Pan's Gate' emitted a faint glow, expelling the darkness within the room. The warm light rested on the black-robed, young man who was seated cross-legged, recuperating from his injuries.

The breathing of the black-robed, young man was extremely calm. He inhaled and exhaled, maintaining a perfect cycle. Each time a breathing cycle was completed, the surrounding space would form a slight ripple. Immediately, an extremely powerful natural energy followed his breathing and poured into his body.

The natural energy poured unceasingly into the young man's body. The latter was just like a bottomless pit that could not be filled. No matter how the energy poured in, his body did not show any sign of being completely filled.

The quiet training and recuperation lasted for an unknown amount of time. At a certain point in time, the paleness on his face was completely replaced by a healthy red. The ripples in the air around him slowly disappeared...

Xiao Yan's eyelashes suddenly shook after the ripples disappeared. He finally opened his eyes slowly a moment later. Emerald-green flames raged in his dark-black pupils before they swiftly disappeared.

"Hu..."

A mouthful of turbid air that had lingered in his chest for a long time was emitted from his throat. It appeared grayish, but it was undoubtedly much better than the dark-black air, he had previously had which possessed a lethal poison.

"From the looks of it, the 'Searing Poison' that has remained in my body was also completely removed during those two years I spent underground..." Xiao Yan was startled upon seeing the faint-grayish turbid air. After which, he began mumbling with some joy. That 'Searing Poison' was ultimately a thorn in his heart. Although it did not cause him much harm due to it being suppressed by the 'Heavenly Flame', it was likely that no one would be completely reassured if such a lethal poison remained in their bodies. Therefore, it was only natural that Xiao Yan could not hide the joy in his heart upon seeing that the 'Searing Poison' had actually completely disappeared.

"My injuries have already fully healed. From the looks of it, I spent quite a long time in retreat." Xiao Yan smiled slightly as he sensed the surging Dou Qi that filled his body. He immediately knit his brows and spoke softly, "Unfortunately, I am still unable to sense the barrier to breakthrough to an elite Dou Huang. Looks like there are some drawbacks that remained after my strength soared."

Xiao Yan's true strength was merely around that of a four or five star Dou Ling when he was dragged underground. Due to various reasons, however, his strength had suddenly soared to its current peak at the Dou Wang class. Although he had spent two years, this speed could be called

frightening. Moreover, it was the first time that Xiao Yan had experienced this kind of situation where he suddenly achieved something so quickly. Hence, his control over his strength still possessed some gaps when compared with other expert Dou Wangs. If he was able to completely control his strength at the peak of the Dou Wang class when fighting with Han Feng this time around, it would have been likely that he would not have ended up being so miserable, even nearly causing his own death toward the end...

When Xiao Yan trained in the past, he had always climbed in a steadfast manner where his strength increased one star at a time. Hence, the him, who was extremely familiar with being taking things slow, felt a little lost because of the great increase in his strength this time around. A strength that had suddenly appeared was extremely difficult to control. Some unreliable increase in strength might even cause some unlucky people to remain at that level forever. However, it was fortunate that the increase in Xiao Yan's strength this time around was not those foolish methods of forcefully pouring energy in. The growth that the corrosion of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' and the medicinal liquid, merged from the medicinal pills and medicinal ingredients, gave Xiao Yan was not exactly an overnight achievement from a certain point of view. His strength had slowly increased during these two years. However, during this period of increase, he had fallen into a state of suspended animation and was unaware of the changes occurring.

Even though this was the case, Xiao Yan's strength did soar. Hence, before he could completely control the strength of the Dou Wang class, he needed to forget about trying to gain great improvement. After all, only by controlling the current strength available would one be able to take another step forward.

The deep thought on Xiao Yan's face slowly disappeared and he sighed. He understood that he could not rush these things. Moreover, the current him did indeed need to familiarize and increase his control of many things. For example, the 'Heavenly Flame'...

In the big fight with Han Feng, even Xiao Yan admitted that the other

party's control of the 'Sea Heart Flame' was much better than his. Although there was the age and experience factors involved, Xiao Yan did not wish to be weaker than him in any way. This was a kind of rivalry mentally between those who shared the same teacher. He needed to let everyone know that he was not weaker than Han Feng in any aspect. Only by doing this could he confirm that Yao Lao's sharp eye was still present.

Of course, part of the reason for Han Feng's better control over the 'Heavenly Flame' was because of his age and experience. Another part of the reason was that he could only focus on studying the 'Sea Heart Flame'. Although Han Feng also practiced the 'Flame Mantra', it was an incomplete version. Han Feng might have gotten a greater understanding of 'Flame Mantra' through these years of practicing it, but his degree of control over the 'Heavenly Flame' was far inferior to Xiao Yan's. Hence, this resulted in him being only able to guard the 'Sea Heart Flame' all day long. On the other hand, Xiao Yan had practiced the complete 'Flame Mantra' from the start. Along the way, he had split his attention and changed a couple of different flames.

Therefore, Han Feng had taken the specialized path while Xiao Yan had taken the jack of all trades path. Each of them had their own advantages, but if one were to merely discuss the degree of control over a flame, it was natural that Han Feng would be better.

“Chi!”

A cluster of jade-green flame surfaced on Xiao Yan's hand following low, deep sound. He stared at this new flame which was born from the merger of two kinds of flame, and was somewhat absent-minded. Since this 'Heavenly Flame' was born from the merger of 'Heavenly Flames', it was likely that it was not ranked on the 'Heavenly Flame Ranking'. After all, the 'Flame Mantra' was not something that everyone had practiced. Hence, Xiao Yan was not even aware of what its name was. He struggled with this for awhile, feeling great interest as he strived to give it a name.

Glazed Lotus Heart Flame!

This simple name caused Xiao Yan to feel somewhat excited. It was

likely that there were not many people who possessed the qualification to give a new 'Heavenly Flame' a name in this world. Perhaps, in the future, this kind of flame would be ranked on the 'Heavenly Flame Ranking' when he became someone at the peak of the continent.

Xiao Yan was similarly uncertain about where this so-called 'Glazed Lotus Heart Flame' should be ranked on the 'Heavenly Flame Ranking'. However, according to his guess, it would at the very least not be lower than Yao Lao's 'Bone Chilling Flame'. After all, regardless of how lousy this thing was, it was still born from the merger of two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame'. Its strength could be seen from how it had firmly suppressed the 'Sea Heart Flame' in his battle with Han Feng.

The jade-green flame writhed repeatedly on Xiao Yan's hand. A moment later, he abruptly pulled his hands apart, and the jade green flame was split into two clusters consisting of a green-colored flame and an invisible one. He felt extremely satisfied of the ability of this newly born 'Heavenly Flame' to possess the ability to transform into two kinds of 'Heavenly Flames' as it pleased.

"From the looks of it, I should practice my control over the flames properly in the future. Otherwise, even if I can control these two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' now, I can only use the most superficial attack." The two flames rose on Xiao Yan's fingers as he muttered. Compared to the exemplary and complicated 'Heavenly Flame' attack, his 'Heavenly Flame' attack would undoubtedly appear much simpler and ordinary.

Xiao Yan's finger habitually rubbed that 'Serene Sea Storage Ring' on his finger. He suddenly recalled something, and he flicked his finger on the storage ring. Immediately, a dark black ancient scroll appeared in his hand.

The scroll was perfectly round, appearing just like a cylinder. He could not find any spot to open it. However, the dark, deep glow that faintly seeped out from it allowed him to know that it was extraordinary.

Seeing the scroll, it was surprisingly the thing that Xun Er had solemnly and carefully handed over to Xiao Yan when she left!

According to what Xun Er had said back then, it was something that could only be opened after one possessed the strength of a Dou Wang. Xiao Yan was extremely curious...

# Chapter 645: God Seal Technique

Xiao Yan rubbed this dark-black scroll with his hand, and let out a gentle sigh. The figure of that elegant lotus-like young lady slowly surfaced in his mind and could not be removed...

“Xun Er, wait for me...” Xiao Yan muttered softly as he shook his head with all his strength, tossing all emotion out of his head. After which, he threw all his attention onto the black-colored scroll in his hand.

“How should I open it?” Xiao Yan knit his brows as he flipped the scroll up and down. It was definitely not possible to forcefully open this kind of thing. Otherwise, he would regret it if he damaged the thing inside.

Xiao Yan mused for a long while before a thought struck his mind. He tried to maneuver the Dou Qi within his body and twine it over the scroll. Something strange happened the moment the first thread of Dou Qi made contact with that dark-black scroll. He realized that the Dou Qi was actually absorbed by the scroll.

Xiao Yan felt a little stunned at this situation. He immediately calmed his emotions as his mind moved. An unceasing amount of Dou Qi began to surge out of his body before moving along his arm and pouring into that dark-black scroll.

There was not much activity after an enormous amount of Dou Qi was poured in other than the dim glow that was emitted on the surface of the dark-black scroll became a little richer. However, Xiao Yan was not anxious. Since Xun Er had said that one required the strength of a Dou Wang in order to open it, it would not be too difficult for him to open it with his current strength.

The pouring in of Dou Qi continued for a total of half an hour or so. Xiao Yan's expression had gradually become solemn as he poured Dou Qi in this never-ending fashion. The unusualness of this dark-black scroll had somewhat exceeded his expectations.

“Crack!”

The dark-black scroll, which did not have much of a reaction before, suddenly emitted a soft 'crack' sound while the thought was lingering in Xiao Yan's heart. Although this sound was extremely faint, it still entered Xiao Yan's ear. He threw his surprised gaze toward the dark-black scroll.

At this moment, the surface of the scroll had already cracked opened, forming a tiny crack line. The cracking sound he had heard earlier was emitted from the inside.

With this success, Xiao Yan finally put down the worry in his heart. Powerful Dou Qi surged out like a torrent from every single corner of his body. Finally, it poured into the dark-black scroll under Xiao Yan's control.

Following the pouring in of more Dou Qi, the crack lines on the surface of the black scroll gradually increased. There was a faint golden-colored light that seeped out from between the crack lines.

When another powerful wave of Dou Qi poured into the scroll, Xiao Yan suddenly realized that the scroll's ability to absorb Dou Qi seemed to have completely disappeared. Immediately, he saw that the crack line on the scroll was swiftly spreading before it eventually covered the entire scroll...

A bright golden glow suddenly shot explosively out of the scroll the instant it was covered with crack lines. The intensity of that glow was something that caused even Xiao Yan's eyes to feel a piercing pain. It forced him to have little choice but to quickly shut his eyes.

"Bang!"

The dark-black scroll suddenly cracked apart just as Xiao Yan shut his eyes. A large cluster of golden light shot out, and lit the entire secret chamber until it was bright-gold in color. It was extremely beautiful.

Xiao Yan hurriedly opened his eyes when he heard the sound of the scroll cracking apart. He saw the broken scroll on the ground and did not have the time to wail when he discovered a large cluster of golden light lingering in the air in front of him. There was something writhing within the golden light. At a glance, it seemed to be some sort of writing.

This dense-golden light writing gave Xiao Yan a dizzy feeling the

moment he looked at it. He hurriedly shifted his eyes aside and slowly extended his hand forward before eventually placing it into the cluster of golden light.

The cluster of golden light also began to writhe intensely as Xiao Yan extended his hand into it. It rotated immediately before eventually turning into a golden glow that shot directly into Xiao Yan's head. The golden light entered Xiao Yan's head without any resistance the moment it made contact.

Xiao Yan suddenly grabbed his head and emitted a miserable cry the moment the golden glow entered his head. His head appeared as if a countless amount of things were being forcefully poured into it, causing it to have an inflated feeling where it was about to burst. However, the pain from this kind of inflated feeling came and left quickly. The intense pain gradually disappeared within a short ten plus seconds.

Xiao Yan's entire body appeared to have become weak after the intense pain disappeared. He tilted his head, and fell onto the bed. His chest rose and fell repeatedly, and his face carried a pale-whiteness. Clearly, the golden light that had entered his mind earlier had caused him to suffer quite a bit.

"Dammit. What exactly is this thing?" Xiao Yan only recovered his mind after lying on the bed for a while. His palm rubbed his head, which was still feeling some remanent pain, as he spoke weakly.

Naturally no one replied to Xiao Yan's question in this empty secret chamber. Hence, Xiao Yan could only clench his teeth and get up after whining on the bed for a while. After which, he crossed his legs and sunk into his mind. He entered his brain to search for the golden light from earlier.

Xiao Yan's mind had just entered his brain when the bright-golden light shot toward him. He looked around, only to discover that this was basically a world made up of golden-colored light. Countless numbers of characters agglomerated from golden lights and matched with one another in the empty space in front of him. Eventually, they twisted and

turned, arranging themselves into a light curtain in the air. Large golden-colored characters shone from the light curtain, causing Xiao Yan's eyes to feel a little pain.

“God Seal Technique. Di class High level. Legend has it that it was created from a certain Dou Di during ancient times. It has a total of five styles. The Open Mountain Seal, Sea Flipping Seal, Overturning Land Seal, Sky Burying Seal, and the Ancient God Seal. Each seal is linked to one another. When one reaches complete mastery of all five seals, one will be able to flip the sea, overturn the oceans, and swallow the Heavens and Earth! It is comparable to a Tian class Dou Technique at its peak! However, one must be at the Dou Wang class in order to practice this seal. Otherwise, one will fail and suffer bitterness alone!”

“What a domineering name...” Xiao Yan's mind was somewhat in a trance as he read the few large words. The name of each seal caused Xiao Yan to feel awe and an overbearing aura. Something that was created by a Dou Di. This was the Dou Technique with the most extraordinary origin among those that he had come across.

“Moreover, it requires one's strength to reach the Dou Wang class in order to practice it. Isn't the requirement of this thing a little too high?” Xiao Yan immediately smacked his lips and sighed when he saw the last sentence. This kind of strange Dou Technique was the first of its kind that Xiao Yan had ever seen. An expert Dou Wang was already called a strong person on the continent. However, here, he had just reached the qualification to practice it.

“No wonder even Xun Er was so solemn back then. It looks like this so-called ‘God Seal Technique’ is indeed extraordinary.” Xiao Yan felt a sudden understanding as he recalled the solemn expression of Xun Er back then. On top of his sudden understanding, he also felt a loving emotion toward the girl. She had so easily handed this Di class High level Dou Technique, which was sufficient to cause the experts on the continent to go crazy over, to him. This affection...

“However... why does this Dou Technique only have such a brief few words of introduction? How does one practice it?”

Xiao Yan sighed softly in his heart. He raised his head and was at a loss as he looked at the golden light word curtain. He felt a fog in his head. This thing might be strong, but it was far too mysterious. It did not even mention a little about how to practice it.

The bright golden light curtain suddenly trembled just as Xiao Yan was feeling at a loss. A golden glow immediately shot explosively out from his heart.

The sudden golden glow caused Xiao Yan to be shocked. However, he did not dodge it. He did not believe that Xun Er would leave behind anything that would harm him.

The golden light passed through Xiao Yan's mind. In an instant, there was something that was faintly imprinted deep within his mind.

Xiao Yan slowly shut his eyes. A torrent of information came swarming over. Xiao Yan read it in detail, and discovered the method to practice the 'God Seal Technique' among this information. However, it seemed that there was only the method to practice the 'Open Mountain Seal' and the 'Sea Flipping Seal' within it. There was no record of the remaining 'Overturning Land Seal,' 'Sky Burying Seal,' and the 'Ancient God Seal' training method within it.

Xiao Yan was somewhat depressed as he studied all of the information. He still failed to find the training method for the last three remaining seals. He could only helplessly give up. It seemed that the Dou Technique which Xun Er gave him was incomplete.

Just as Xiao Yan had completely checked over the information, there was a soft, gentle, familiar, lovely voice that was unexpectedly and slowly emitted at the end of the information. The familiar voice caused Xiao Yan's mind to tremble intensely.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, if you can open the scroll and listen to my message, you should have already advanced to a Dou Wang. Ha ha, Xun Er shall first congratulate Xiao Yan ge-ge here."

"There is not much time, so I cannot leave too many words. Xiao Yan ge-ge must remember Xun Er's words. The 'God Seal Technique' is one of my

clan's most profound Dou Techniques. Xun Er has also yet to obtain the last three seals. Therefore, I can only leave Xiao Yan ge-ge with the first two seals. Practicing the 'Open Mountain Seal' would at least require the strength of a Dou Wang. As for the 'Flipping Sea Seal', it is best that you practice it only after you have reached the Dou Huang class. Besides this, if Xiao Yan ge-ge was to learn the 'Open Mountain Technique', promise Xun Er that you will use it as little as possible unless it is a crucial moment. The 'God Seal Technique' is a secret Technique that is passed down within my clan. If it is leaked, then the clan will definitely send someone to retrieve it. Therefore, Xiao Yan ge-ge must use it cautiously!"

"Additionally... Xiao Yan ge-ge... Xun Er misses you. Take care!"

The soft, gentle voice slowly reverberated within Xiao Yan's mind before it gradually disappeared. Xiao Yan's mind began to tremble because of the last sentence. That cute girl had really done too much for him...

Xiao Yan's mind slowly withdrew from his head. He slowly opened his eyes within the secret chamber. He was somewhat absent-minded as he studied the broken scroll on the ground. A moment later, he suddenly tightened his fist. His muttering voice slowly resounded throughout the secret chamber.

"Xun Er, wait for me. I will definitely go and look for you! No one can stop me!"

# Chapter 646: Plans

There was not a single person in the large hall when Xiao Yan came out from the secret chamber. He felt somewhat surprised at this before he immediately shook his head with a bitter smile. He searched for a seat and sat his body feebly onto it before exhaling comfortably. All the rushing around during this period had caused him to feel a little tired.

“Creak...”

The door to the hall was gently pushed opened when Xiao Yan was recuperating with his eyes shut. Immediately, a long shadow was formed as the sunlight landed on a tall figure.

Joy flashed across the pretty eyes of the lady who had pushed open the door when she saw Xiao Yan resting in a chair with his eyes closed. Immediately, she became afraid to disturb his rest. After a brief moment of hesitation, she began to withdraw.

“Ke ke, why are you still leaving after you have come in?” A warm voice suddenly sounded. This surprised the lady who paused her withdrawing footsteps. Her pretty eyes took a glance and saw that Xiao Yan, who was resting with his eyes closed, had unknowingly opened them. He was now looking at her with a smile.

“Are your injuries alright?” Xiao Yu stood at the door. Her gaze looked in all directions as she softly asked.

“Since when have you been so gentle?” Xiao Yan was surprised as he looked at Xiao Yu. This woman had been fierce toward him since he was young. When had she spoken with such gentleness?

Xiao Yu immediately felt a little angry when she heard Xiao Yan’s surprised words. This brat still had a glib tongue despite not having met for two years. However, it was also because of these familiar words of Xiao Yan that caused her unfamiliarity to slowly disappear and the familiarity of the past to slowly return.

Xiao Yu became blunt after abandoning the unfamiliarity within her

heart. She strode in with her long sexy legs, legs Xiao Yan had coveted back then, and walked into the hall. After which, she sat down on a chair beside Xiao Yan. Only then did she turn her head and look at the familiar face that contained a smile. After having not seen him for two years, this fellow, who had given her a great headache back then, had become much more mature. His young and delicate face was light and clear when he smiled, giving people a kind of unknown comfort.

“Have all of you been well during these past two years?” Xiao Yan took the lead to break the silence. This was the first time he was alone with Xiao Yu after coming up from the underground. Although he came to ‘Pan’s Gate’ once the last time, he did not converse much with Xiao Yu and the others as he was pressed for time.

“Aye. Xiao Ning and Xiao Mei have also entered the Inner Academy. They are doing very well with the protection of ‘Pan’s Gate’.” Xiao Yu nodded her head and sighed. She immediately scanned Xiao Yan before speaking somewhat angrily, “You should be more careful when you do things in the future. Do you know the despair that we felt in our hearts after you were swallowed by the ‘Heavenly Flame’? Now, you are the only person who can revitalize the Xiao clan. If any accident were to happen to you, it is likely that no one will be able to avenge our clan members!”

Xiao Yan let out a bitter laugh as he watched Xiao Yu whose eyebrows had gone vertical. Only after her words sounded did he sigh, “One must have strength if one wants to take revenge. How can there be no risk when obtaining strength?”

Xiao Yan felt apologetic toward the younger generation of the Xiao clan. The reason for the Xiao clan to face such a catastrophe was related to him. The clan members had suffered serious injuries and death. Some of the parents of the younger generation had even lost their lives. Although he was not entirely at blame for this, the guilt was still present.

Xiao Yu was speechless as she looked at the somewhat thin face of Xiao Yan. Although this person never displayed the worry in his heart on his face, it was likely that the pressure he felt was extremely great. He clearly understood his own importance to the Xiao clan. Moreover, there was the

matter of uncle Xiao missing...

“Ke ke, let’s not discuss this matter.” Xiao Yan smiled when he felt the atmosphere become somewhat heavy. He changed the topic and teased, “It has been two years. Has any lucky fellow managed to woo you?”

“Chi, how can it be this easy to woo this lady?” A flushness surfaced on Xiao Yu’s face as she smacked her lips. She suddenly took out a few cards from her storage ring and handed them to Xiao Yan. “These are currently the ‘Fire Energy Cards’ of ‘Pan’s Gate’. Wu Hao and Hu Jia had said to hand these to you when you completely recover from your injuries. After all, you are the true leader of ‘Pan’s Gate’.”

Xiao Yan was slightly startled. He did not receive it but simply smiled and shook his head. He spoke with a soft voice, “I am not the only person who has credit for the current achievement of ‘Pan’s Gate’. I might not be staying too long within the Jia Nan Academy. It is better for all of you to take care of these things.”

“You are leaving? Where are you going?” Xiao Yu’s expression changed slightly when she heard this. Her voice was hurried as she spoke.

“I am naturally returning to the Jia Ma Empire.” Xiao Yan smiled. However, a faint cold glint flickered within his dark-black eyes. “I have to settle the grudges from back then right?”

“You are going to look for the Misty Cloud Sect? I am also going. I want to take a look at those clan members who have survived.”

“Ke ke, there is no need to hurry. There should still be a period of time before I return. This time around, there will be a big intense fight when I return. Hence, I must prepare everything properly. I was chased out of the empire once back then. I don’t want to be chased out a second time.” Xiao Yan waved his hand and said, “As for all of you, it would be best if you remain in the Jia Nan Academy. This is the safest place. Don’t interrupt. I am not visiting relatives this time around. Instead, it will be a true battle to death. You should clearly understand just how strong the Misty Cloud Sect is within the Jia Ma Empire. Therefore, I cannot take any risks.”

Xiao Yu could only nod her head in a dejected manner when she saw

Xiao Yan's stern expression with his lips tightly pressed together. Currently, the Xiao clan was in a battered shape. As those from the younger generation, they could only obey all of Xiao Yan's arrangements. Moreover, Xiao Yan was no longer that willful young man after these few years. The shoulders of the current him already possessed the ability to carry all the burdens. That boldness of his also caused them to have little choice but to obey.

"Relax. All of you can return to the Jia Ma Empire once I have settled everything." Xiao Yan patted Xiao Yu's shoulders and laughed.

Xiao Yu nodded helplessly. She immediately seemed to have recalled something as she said, "Oh right, cousin Xiao Li seems to be looking for you. It is best that you go and see him."

"Oh?" Xiao Yan raised his eyebrows before nodding slightly. He chatted and smiled with Xiao Yu for a little longer. After which, he took the lead to stand up and search for Xiao Li.

"Second brother, are you looking for me for something?" Xiao Yan coincidentally saw Xiao Li in the latter's room and immediately inquired with a smile.

"Are your injuries fine?" Xiao Li also rejoiced when he saw Xiao Yan. The former pulled him into the room and asked in a concerned manner.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. His gaze paused on Xiao Li's body as he waited for the latter to speak.

Xiao Li mused for a moment while being watched by Xiao Yan. After which, he slowly spoke, "Currently, the 'Black-Corner Region' has become chaotic because of the dissolution of the 'Black Alliance'. This is not a bad opportunity. The 'Black-Corner Region' might be chaotic, but there are quite a number of strong people present. If we can gather them, they would likely be a great help when we take revenge on the Misty Cloud Sect in the future."

"You want to establish a faction in the 'Black-Corner Region'?" Xiao Yan frowned slightly as he spoke in a soft voice, "The people there are those uncontrollable terrible people who lick blood off their blades. It won't be

easy to gather them.'

"Hee hee, these people are indeed very vicious. If one wants to rein them in, one must be even more vicious than them. Those subordinates of mine now were also extremely haughty people in the past. However, they still end up obeying my orders now." Xiao Li laughed. "It should not be too difficult if you are willing to help me this time around. Though 'Pan's Gate' may possess quite a great potential but they are only students after all. Moreover, due to the environmental factor, you cannot be overly strict by requiring them to obey your orders. However, the 'Black-Corner Region' is different. One can just kill those who disobey there. Therefore, it is much easier to control them. Of course, the precondition is that you possess sufficient strength. What do you say?"

Xiao Yan nodded slightly as he voiced his thoughts, "Those people from the 'Black-Corner Region' do possess quite strong combat capabilities. If we can rein them in, there would be quite a lot of benefits for us. After all, the Misty Cloud Sect has many strong people and some things are difficult to achieve alone."

"Putting it this way, you don't have any objections right?" Xiao Li rejoiced as he clapped his hand and spoke.

"If second brother has the ability, you can just go and do as you like. You can come and look for me if you meet any problems that you cannot settle. For those who have any objections, die!" Xiao Yan clenched his teeth and waved his hand with stern killing intent.

"Ha ha, good. You are bold." Xiao Li laughed out loud. He patted Xiao Yan's shoulders and immediately said, "However, there is still a big problem."

"What is it?" Xiao Yan was startled as he inquired.

"The Inner Academy." Xiao Li spoke in a deep voice.

"The Inner Academy?" Xiao Yan knit his brows.

"The Inner Academy has always possessed some fear toward some of the overly strong factions within the 'Black-Corner Region'. The 'Black

Alliance' is the best example. If we were to successfully establish a faction within the 'Black-Corner Region', it is likely that it would incur the attention of the Inner Academy. At that time..." Xiao Li smacked his lips and spoke to Xiao Yan, "Hence, you must convince Su Qian before making a decision. Otherwise, there will be trouble sooner or later. There might even be the possibility of meeting with swords drawn."

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes. A moment later, he laughed softly and said, "You need not be worried about this. The Inner Academy always takes notice of those overly strong factions within the 'Black-Corner Region' because they are worried that they will act against the academy. Our intentions do not lie in this area, and there doesn't have to be conflict with them. Moreover, we can also help them monitor the other factions. This does not hurt the Inner Academy."

"This may be the case, but I still think that it is best to tell them about it in order to avoid trouble in the future." Xiao Li voiced his thoughts. His character was vicious and cautious. He basically did not trust anyone other than a couple of relatives.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He stood up and said, "Alright. I will go and look for First Elder to discuss it. If he agrees, you can head for the 'Black-Corner Region'."

"If this matter can succeed, we will no longer need to be the least bit afraid even if the Misty Cloud Sect maneuvers its entire sect's strength!"

# Chapter 647: Transaction

“You want to establish a faction within the ‘Black-Corner Region’?” Su Qian immediately knit his brows when he heard Xiao Yan’s words in the Elder’s Meeting Room.

“First Elder, I am also aware that the ‘Black-Corner Region’ has been a thorn to the Jia Nan Academy. However, due to the environment, that place will always possess an extremely strong offensive capability. As the saying goes, it is better to scatter than to stop. If you want to end this trouble, it is only natural that you cannot do it by the most forceful method. Should second brother really manage to expand his faction in the ‘Black-Corner Region’, it would end up helping the Inner Academy by saving a lot of trouble. Moreover, we can also help monitor some of the factions which possess enmity toward the Inner Academy.” Su Qian’s reaction was not beyond Xiao Yan’s expectations. The latter simply smiled and explained.

The frown on Su Qian’s brow relaxed a little. He was no fool. With his experience, he was naturally able to figure out whether things would be beneficial for him or not.

“Moreover, First Elder should also be aware of a little of my background. I have a deep enmity with the Misty Cloud Sect. In order to take revenge, I will require quite a strong faction. The ‘Black-Corner Region’ is not a bad place.” Xiao Yan smiled faintly as he spoke, “Therefore, even if the faction were to expand in the future, it is likely that it would not be much of a threat to the Inner Academy. If First Elder does not trust my second brother on this point, you should at least be able to trust me, right?”

Su Qian’s finger knocked against the surface of the table. He finally nodded a long while later as he said, “What you say is not without reason. The ‘Black-Corner Region’ has always been a big worry for the Jia Nan Academy. If a faction which is friendly to the Inner Academy were to appear, it would indeed possess an effect that is difficult to measure.”

“In other words, First Elder agrees to it?” Xiao Yan was slightly happy as

he replied with a smile.

“Ugh, what else can I do other than agree? At this moment, the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ of the Inner Academy requires you to replenish the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ in the long term.” Su Qian helplessly shook his head as replied

“First Elder, these words of yours are spoken like... Xiao Yan is not an ungrateful person. I owe the Inner Academy a favor by obtaining the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. Won’t I be completely shameful if I used this to threaten you?” Xiao Yan spoke seriously.

“Ke ke, you are not bad when it comes to this point. You view friendship quite seriously. This old me likes it.” Su Qian fondled his beard and nodded his head, feeling pleased. He had always favored and valued Xiao Yan. This was not only because of his strength and his talent, but also his character.

“Alright, let your second brother feel at ease and do it. The ‘Black-Corner Region’ is far too chaotic and straightening it out a little also does have some benefit to our Jia Nan Academy.” Su Qian waved his hand and spoke with a smile.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded.

“Are your injuries alright?” Su Qian changed the topic. He smiled and asked Xiao Yan a question when he noticed that the discussion had come to an end.

“Aye, I’m fine.”

“Little fellow, your constitution is really a source of envy. You can lively jump around after only recuperating for a couple of days despite suffering such serious injuries.” Su Qian smacked his mouth and revealed a face filled with envy. This kind of nearly unbeatable kind of constitution was indeed something that others coveted after.

Xiao Yan smiled. His constitution was this strong because it had been forged from a countless number of sufferings. This world did not give free lunches. One could forget about any reward without any effort.

“What do you plan to do next? Don’t tell me that you want to go to the ‘Black-Corner Region’ to help your second brother?” Su Qian’s finger tapped gently on the table as he asked.

“He is able to handle the matter of the ‘Black-Corner Region’ himself and will send someone to inform me if he really need me to intervene.” Xiao Yan shook his head and mused, “I will still remain in the academy for a period of time until I settle the problem regarding her.”

Of course, there was one other matter. That was to quietly practice the ‘Open Mountain Seal’ of the ‘God Seal Technique’ that Xun Er had left behind. A Di class High level Dou Technique. A Dou Technique of this class would likely have an extremely powerful strength. If he were to successfully practice it, it would undoubtedly become another trump card of Xiao Yan. It would also increase his chances of victory in the future battle with Yun Shan. However, he needed to keep this a secret. Therefore, it was only natural that Xiao Yan did not mention it.

“Her? Are you talking about that Dou Zong class woman?” Su Qian raised his brows and immediately asked somewhat curiously, “Just where exactly did this woman come from? Why have I never heard of such an expert around this place?”

Xiao Yan hesitated a little upon hearing this. When he thought that this was not considered a secret, he shrugged his shoulders and gave a brief explanation of Queen Medusa’s origin.

“Tsk tsk, how unexpected. She is actually the legendary Queen Medusa. Moreover, she is a Medusa after evolution. No wonder...” Su Qian’s face was filled with surprise as he smacked his mouth. He immediately spoke teasingly toward Xiao Yan, “But, little fellow, you are quite strong. You even dared to provoke this kind of woman. I heard that successive Queen Medusas were all extremely cold-blooded people who killed humans like killing chickens. It is unexpected that she had intervened to rescue you. That is really unbelievable... back then, an evolved Queen Medusa had appeared on the continent in the past. Coincidentally, she was molested by a young master from a top-tiered faction. In the end, that woman charged into the faction and went on a massacre, decimating that faction.

From then on, the men on the continent took a detour whenever they saw Queen Medusa. They are all afraid that they might end up leading their faction to destruction if they were careless. Hee hee, do you know just how lucky you are now?”

Xiao Yan rubbed the cold sweat off his forehead. The previous Queen Medusas were indeed frightening. There was no need for any reason to kill someone. Hopefully, this current Queen Medusa could be a little more reasonable...

“I will be more careful. Thank you First Elder for your reminder.” Xiao Yan smiled bitterly as he cupped his hands toward Su Qian. After which, he walked out of the Meeting Room in front of the brewing smile in the latter’s eyes.

Su Qian watched Xiao Yan’s disappearing back. Only then did he teasingly mutter with a smile, “However, this fellow does not appear to know that despite having such an intense killing nature, Medusa truly loves someone until the end once she has been subdued by him. This fellow... tsk tsk, his luck with women is indeed quite great...”

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Xiao Yan once again hurried back to ‘Pan’s Gate’ after leaving the Meeting Room. He informed Xiao Li of the good news. The latter was also quite happy upon hearing that the Inner Academy did not oppose the plan. He immediately reminded Xiao Yan about some things before he hurriedly left the Inner Academy and headed for the Jia Nan City to summon his subordinates. After which, they headed into the ‘Black-Corner Region’ to take the opportunity to expand their faction.

Xiao Yan was helpless in the face of the impatient Xiao Li. He could only allow the latter to leave. However, Xiao Yan had repeatedly reminded Xiao Li that he should send someone to contact him as soon as possible if there was any trouble. Currently, Han Feng from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ was dead, and the Gold Silver Brothers did not dare to stand out. Given Xiao Yan’s strength, it was already sufficient to sweep aside all those people on the so-called ‘Black Ranking’.

Xiao Yan's life became quiet after Xiao Li left the Inner Academy. He stayed within 'Pan's Gate' for another two days before he was finally unable to resist his curiosity for the 'God Seal Skill'. Once again, he found an excuse to enter the vast deep mountains.

.....

The deep mountains were vast and unending. The lush green color continued to extend all the way to the end of one's sight. A wild wind blew over and the entire mountain range emitted a 'hua hua' sound.

Xiao Yan was seated cross-legged on a huge rock on a somewhat empty mountain peak. However, he did not immediately begin to practice the 'God Seal Technique'. Instead, he raised his head and looked at the empty sky. A moment later, he helplessly opened his mouth and said, "Show yourself. I know you have been following me."

Xiao Yan's voice had just sounded when a spot in the sky began to fluctuate slightly. A well-proportioned, graceful, beautiful figure appeared out of nowhere. An ice-cold bright gaze shot toward Xiao Yan's body.

"Are you seeking death?" Medusa stepped gently in the empty sky just like a fairy who was riding the waves. However, the killing intent on this fairy was a little too dense. In the blink of an eye, she appeared in front of Xiao Yan and spoke coldly.

"Don't tell me 'die' all day long. I am also aware that you are unable to kill me now." Xiao Yan waved his hand and laughed bitterly.

"What did you say?" Queen Medusa's eyebrows were vertical when she heard these words of Xiao Yan. Her long eyes were filled with a dense, cold killing intent.

"You should clearly be aware of what I said. Although you have merged with the spirit of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python', you were also influenced by it. Therefore, you have been unable to hurt me, and even frequently follow beside me." Xiao Yan sighed as he studied Queen Medusa whose face became uglier following his words.

"Don't think that the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' can influence me

forever. I will be able to kill you sooner or later!” Queen Medusa’s voice was like glacier. It was void of any excess emotion.

“We can perform a transaction. What do you say?” Xiao Yan rubbed his somewhat painful head and helplessly spoke.

Queen Medusa did not have the slightest reaction to Xiao Yan’s suggestion. These past few years, it was due to these various transactions that she finally ended up being entangled with this fellow.

“I can help you completely remove the influence of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ and allow you to become a true Queen Medusa.” Despite having already decided in her heart that she would ignore any sweet words of Xiao Yan, Queen Medusa’s heart still pounded intensely when she heard the latter say this.

“Why should I trust you?” Queen Medusa’s long pretty eyes narrowed into a lazy arc as she coldly smiled.

Xiao Yan waved his hand and a shadow shot from his sleeves. Finally, it was thrust into Queen Medusa’s hand. She took a closer look, only to discover it was a scroll. A couple of ancient words were imprinted into her eyes when she slowly opened it. This was a medicinal formula. The medicinal pill that it could refine would coincidentally treat the condition of being influenced by another spirit, something that Queen Medusa was facing.

“This is a tier six medicinal pill, ‘Soul Recovery Pill’. The medicinal ingredients and other things needed to refine the medicinal pill are not on this scroll. If you agree to my terms, I will help you refine it in the future. What do you say?” Xiao Yan spoke indifferently.

Medusa’s expression was volatile as she folded the scroll. Her voice was still icy-cold as she inquired, “What’s your request?”

“You will follow beside me for one year. You are not allowed to have any killing intent toward me. If I ask you to intervene when necessary, you are not allowed to reject me.” Xiao Yan smiled and continued, “Once one year is over, I will help you refine the medicinal pill. At that time, you can do as you wish if you still want to kill me? What do you say?”

Queen Medusa's eyes flickered. Her heart descended into a conflicting struggle.

“Ke ke, as long as you obtain the ‘Soul Recovery Pill’, you will be a pure Queen Medusa in the future. You will not be influenced by anything. This kind of freedom has a hefty price tag.” Xiao Yan's laughter reverberated beside Queen Medusa's ear. It was filled with allure.

Medusa's delicate hand suddenly tightened. Her icy-cold gaze stared at Xiao Yan as her clear, cold voice caused a joyous arc to be lifted on the corner of the latter's mouth.

“Alright, I will do as you say!”

# Chapter 648: Practicing the Open Mountain Seal

Queen Medusa gave a cold snort when she saw the bright smile on Xiao Yan's face. She made the decision in her heart that she would definitely turn this fellow into ten thousand pieces in the future once she escaped the influence of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'!

Xiao Yan smiled and sat up from the huge rock. He said to Medusa, "In that case, we can be considered companions from now on."

"We only have the relationship of business partners, not companions!" Queen Medusa skimmed her sleek red lips, and completely destroyed Xiao Yan's thoughts of bringing their relationship closer.

"Alright, alright, a business relationship." Xiao Yan indifferently spread his hand and smiled before saying, "However, since we are going to be together and one year is so long, I cannot simply keep calling you Medusa, right? Why don't I help you pick a name? Otherwise, other people will know your identity once I call your name in the future."

"There is no need to concern yourself with it!" Queen Medusa merely replied coldly to Xiao Yan's good intentions.

"Why don't I call you Cai Lin? I think that this name really suits you." Xiao Yan continued speaking on his own, feeling not the least bit concerned that this name was a little philistine.

TL: Cai Lin – means colorful scales in reference to the colorful scales on the Heaven Swallowing Python

"Get lost!" Queen Medusa was irritated by Xiao Yan's endless words, which caused her to be furious. Her pretty eyes were filled with coldness as she stared at the young man in front of her. However, when she saw the bright warm smile on the former's face, the fury in her eyes somewhat dissipated. She coldly said, "Queen Medusa is not just my name, but also my status. I don't need you to change my name." Once she said this, she turned around and rushed into the distance.

“You have already transformed into a human. Not the half-human half-snake form of the past. Therefore, you naturally need a name. In the future, I will call you Cai Lin. Saying Queen Medusa is far too troublesome.” Xiao Yan raised his head somewhat recklessly, and cried out loud to Queen Medusa in the sky.

Queen Medusa’s body paused slightly. Her eyes flickered for an instant. However, she did not cry out angrily this time around. Her body moved and she transformed into a light figure that rushed into the distance.

“Additionally, can I trouble you to help me keep an eye on my surroundings and not let anyone disturb me. Otherwise, if an accident happens, our transaction will be null and void...”

Queen Medusa completely ignored Xiao Yan’s loud cry. Her body flashed and she disappeared into the horizon. No one knew if she bore Xiao Yan’s words in her heart.

Xiao Yan smiled slightly when he saw Queen Medusa’s disappear. He had finally settled this big trouble. With the so-called ‘Soul Recovery Pill’ transaction, he would no longer need to worry about when that frightening woman would appear and kill him.

“Hee hee, Han Feng did indeed own a rich collection. He even possessed a medicinal formula for a medicine with such a strange effect. It is thanks to him that I am able to settle my problem this time around.” Xiao Yan rubbed the ‘Serene Sea Storage Ring’ on his hand and softly laughed. If it was just him, he naturally did not possess a medicinal formula like the ‘Soul Recovery Pill’. This thing was something he had taken from the ‘Serene Sea Storage Ring’ while he was recuperating.

“Now, I can finally relax and practice the ‘God Seal Palm’...” Xiao Yan stretched his lazy waist and smiled slightly. He once again sat down cross-legged on the huge rock and shut his eyes. His mind moved as some information slowly flowed past his heart.

Xiao Yan carefully read the training method for the ‘Open Mountain Seal’. It was a long while later before he knit his brows and opened his eyes. “This ‘God Seal Technique’ is indeed worthy of being a Di Class High

Level Dou Technique. The difficulty involved while practicing it was many times that of the 'Flame Splitting Tsunami'."

"It actually needs to open three specific Qi Paths before one can condense a palm and maneuver Dou Qi to unleash the Dou Technique..." Xiao Yan knit his brows tightly. The Qi Paths in one's body were as complicated as the stars all over the sky. There were a countless number of them. Some of them were tiny and difficult to find. Moreover, they were also extremely brittle. Forget about opening them, they would crack open even if one used a slightly stronger energy to charge at it. The three specific Qi Paths of the 'Open Mountain Seal' were coincidentally three remote ones on his right hand. One would definitely have to spend quite a large amount of time in order to open them up.

This kind of Dou Technique which required one to open up certain veins in order to use was usually one with a terrifying strength or one that belonged to the legendary class. Back then, Xiao Yan did not need to purposefully open up any Qi Paths when he practiced the 'Flame Splitting Tsunami'. From this, one could tell just how unique this 'God Seal Technique' was.

"Ugh..." Xiao Yan sighed softly. He shook his head helplessly. Now that things had progressed to this stage, he could only give it a try regardless of how difficult it was to open the three veins. If he were to give up practicing something that Xun Er spared no expense to leave for him, he would have really wasted her effort.

Xiao Yan tossed aside the emotion within his heart. His mind gradually became quiet as he entered his training condition a moment later.

Xiao Yan's mind swiftly arrived at the three veins that needed to be opened up after he entered his training mode. He eyed the three Qi Paths which were like three blocked cylinders and sighed once again. It appeared that he was going to have a headache...

Xiao Yan's mind moved and a tiny thread of Dou Qi surged out from within his body. Finally, it circulated a couple of times under Xiao Yan's control before it finally arrived at this remote Qi Path. After which, it

obeyed Xiao Yan's orders and carefully invaded that tiny Qi Path.

Opening one's Qi Paths was an extremely painful thing. The intense pain that occurred when Dou Qi cleared the Qi Path and expanded was not something that an ordinary person could endure. However, the expected intense pain and difficulty to widen the Qi Path did not appear when Dou Qi was poured into that tiny Qi Path. Although the flow of Dou Qi was extremely slow due to the tiny size of the Qi Path, Xiao Yan could clearly sense that the blocked feeling inside the Qi Path was slowly disappearing...

"What is going on?" Xiao Yan was somewhat stunned as he studied the Qi Path that was being gradually unblocked. His heart was filled with disbelief. Since when was opening up a Qi Path this easy?

Of course, at this very moment, Xiao Yan was naturally unaware of the prolonged tug of war between the 'Fallen Heart Flame' and the strange liquid when he had entered into his near death state while he was underground. The greatest victor during that tug of war was Xiao Yan's body. Regardless of whether it was his bones, Qi Paths, muscles, etc., in his body, all of them had been completely refined during that tug of war. Hence, any part inside Xiao Yan's body was tougher than those experts who had a strength similar to his.

It was also due to his Qi Paths having previously been refined that Xiao Yan felt that opening up a Qi Path was this easy. This was similar to a tunnel whose outline had already been roughly constructed by someone. All the people who came after would only need to clear out some of the rock fragments that remained within the tunnel.

If an ordinary person were to open their Qi Paths, it was likely that their Qi Paths would have already burst from the pressure of the Dou Qi. How would it be possible to have Xiao Yan's progress?

Although Xiao Yan was uncertain why opening a Qi Path had become this simple, this was something that did not hurt Xiao Yan even a little. Hence, in his wild joy, Xiao Yan began to unceasingly direct Dou Qi to strike this blocked Qi Path. This Qi Path, which he had never used, was

quietly expanded at a slow pace by his Dou Qi...

Although opening a Qi Path had become much easier because of the prior refinement of the interior of his body, it was still a process that one needed to adhere to the rules. After all, the vein was currently too fragile. If one were to quietly use a little more force, one would cause it to burst apart. This risk was something that even Xiao Yan did not dare to take.

Therefore, when the opening of the vein within his body progressed at a tortoise-like pace, the somewhat impatient Xiao Yan could only enter his training condition and split his attention into two different areas...

No matter how slow or tortoise-like the pace was, there would ultimately be a time when it arrived at its destination. The first Qi Path was finally opened by him five days after he had entered the deep mountains. He had formally took his first step in practicing the 'Open Mountain Seal'!

After having some experience from the first attempt, Xiao Yan was a little more familiar with his remaining Qi Paths. Although his speed was still similar to a tortoise moving, it would upset a person until he threw up blood and died if one compared his speed with another.

The second Qi Path was also opened up by Xiao Yan without any incident around ten days or so after the first vein was opened. This kind of smooth training caused Xiao Yan to be so happy that he could not shut his mouth. According to this speed, it was likely that he would be able to completely finish the precondition of opening up the three Qi Paths within one month. At that time, he would be able to formally practice the 'Open Mountain Seal' he coveted greatly.

Time quietly flowed by in the deep mountains. Perhaps Xiao Yan's reminder had some effect on Medusa. Nothing had come to disturb him ever since he had entered his training condition. This enabled him to obtain an extremely quiet training environment.

Exactly after one month, the young man on the mountain top who had his eyes shut, suddenly opened them. A substance-like glow flashed through his eyes before it gradually disappeared a moment later.

Xiao Yan slowly stood up from the huge rock. He raised his head and let

out a long breath. He had opened up three veins within a month. This kind of speed was something that even he himself could not quite believe. It was likely that this was quite a good result even when placed among Xun Er's clan.

“Since the Qi Paths have been opened... next, it should be the time to formally practice the ‘Open Mountain Seal’!”

Xiao Yan laughed softly. His right hand formed an extremely strange hand seal in front of him. The hand seal was pushed forward. This was naturally superfluous without any Dou Qi to activate it. However, Xiao Yan clearly understood that within a short period of time, the strength that the hand seal would emit would likely shock even himself.

# Chapter 649: Xiao Gate

The lush-green color radiating from the vast mountain forest was just like a green sea where one could not see its borders.

A black-robed, young man was standing on a huge rock at the peak of a mountain within a certain part of this deep mountain range. His expression was solemn, as his right hand formed a strange seal and he immediately cried out loud, “Open Mountain Seal!”

A powerful glow immediately surged from the young man’s palm as the cry sounded. Following the appearance of the glow, his palm was suddenly pushed forward. However, the intense glow on his palm was like an epiphyllum just as his palm moved and instantly disappeared. The palm that was swung merely carried a slight wind. A ‘puff’ was emitted and a tiny pit was blasted into the ground.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head as he studied the pit in the ground. He sat on the huge rock as he repeatedly exhaled coarse breath. The energy needed to drive this ‘Open Mountain Seal’ was really too strong, resulting in him being unable to repeatedly use it.

“This damn ‘Open Mountain Seal’ is actually this difficult to practice. Moreover, this is only the first seal. I really don’t know just how terrifying the remaining four seals will be.” Xiao Yan feebly leaned on a cool rock and muttered to himself with a bitter smile.

It had been nearly five days since he had opened up the three Qi Paths. During these five days, Xiao Yan did not gain much progress in his practice of the ‘Open Mountain Palm’. The difficulty of practicing this thing had far exceeded his imagination. In order to unleash the normal strength of the ‘Open Mountain Seal’, one must complete the circulation of the Dou Qi within one’s body as well as make the formation of the hand seal at the same time. Otherwise, something like what happened a moment ago would happen. The energy would swiftly disappear after it had just appeared due to the inappropriate coordination. Finally, it would result in their strength falling to an appalling level.

This kind of coordination usually required time to polish. It would be somewhat impossible if one wanted to swiftly succeed within a short period of time. Of course, this slow progress of his might also be related to this being the first time he had practiced such a hand seal Dou Technique.

Xiao Yan was also clearly aware of all of this. At the very least, he was much better than when he used it for the first time after five days of training. However, he was used to quick progress. Such a slow speed was something that he had some difficulty accepting.

“Ugh... it is indeed worthy of being a high class Dou Technique. Looks like I can only take things slowly.” Xiao Yan sighed and withdrew the anxiety within his heart. He sat cross-legged and calmed his mind. He his training mode to begin recovering his exhausted Dou Qi.

Currently, Xiao Yan’s strength had already reached the peak of the Dou Wang class. His absorption of the natural energy was naturally far from what his past self could compare with. Moreover, due to him refining the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’, the ‘Flame Mantra’ had also evolved to the Di Class Low Level. Of course, this was Xiao Yan’s guess from the refining speed of the natural energy by the ‘Flame Mantra’. He was actually unable to guarantee that it had really broken through to the Di class. However, one thing that he was certain about was that the current ‘Flame Mantra’ was not merely just a little stronger than before. Regardless of how much natural energy poured into his body, the ‘Flame Mantra’ was able to orderly refine all of it. Finally it transformed into pure Dou Qi that merged into his body.

The strength of the Dou Qi currently within Xiao Yan’s body could not be compared with another person in the Dou Wang Class. Besides the repeated absorption of natural energy, the permanent raging heart flame also existed in his body. It repeatedly refined the Dou Qi, causing it to possess a greater liveliness and explosive strength.

From a certain point of view, Xiao Yan could even contend with some elite Dou Huangs by just relying on the ‘Flame Mantra’ and the Heart Flame. Of course, if he met a Dou Huang who was a little stronger, he would need to use Dou Techniques to fight with such an opponent. For

those peak elite Dou Huangs, he would have to go all out. If it were someone even stronger, like Han Feng who had half a foot in the Dou Zong class, he would need to make every effort in order to obtain a large chance of victory.

However, Xiao Yan was dissatisfied with this kind of battle result. This was because he knew that he must defeat the person who truly controlled the Misty Cloud Sect when he returns to the Jia Ma Empire this time around, Yun Shan!

Two years ago, Yun Shan had already stepped into the ultimately strong Dou Zong class. Now that two years had passed, it was only natural that his strength would be even stronger. Xiao Yan clearly understood in his heart that even if he used the large scale 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' when fighting with an opponent of such strength, it was likely that his chances of victory would not be very high. Therefore... the current him needed a powerful fighting strength that could allow him to contend with a true elite Dou Zong. The 'Open Mountain Seal' was his only hope!

Therefore, no matter what happened, Xiao Yan had to completely master the 'Open Mountain Seal' of the 'God Seal Technique' before he returned to the Jia Ma Empire. Otherwise, the risk would be too great. Back then, he was forced away like a dog that had lost its home as he was chased out of the Jia Ma Empire. This could happen once, but it would never happen twice!

Xiao Yan suddenly opened his eyes as this thought flashed through his heart. A coldness rushed over his dark-black pupils. Yun Shan, just you wait. I, Xiao Yan, said that I will return, and I will definitely return to avenge this blood feud!

Hatred flowed within Xiao Yan's heart as he suddenly stood up. The hand seal in his hand was swiftly formed, and the Dou Qi in his body was swiftly circulated at this moment.

"Open Mountain Seal. I don't believe I cannot master you!"

The young man's tense face stared at the hot sun on the mountain peak as his hands danced tirelessly. Strange hand seals were flipped under the

sunlight, leaving behind an unceasing number of afterimages. The coordination of powerful Dou Qi and his hand seal gradually became better as his hands formed countless numbers of seals...

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Black-Corner Region. Feng City.

Being the city in the 'Black-Corner Region' closest to the Inner Academy caused no other faction to dare step into it after Han Feng died. Hence, it gave Xiao Li the opportunity to grab it. After using bloody means to remove some resisting factions within the city, he completely controlled this city.

During this half a month, Xiao Li had occupied Feng City. The 'Xiao Gate' which Xiao Li established also gained some fame within the 'Black-Corner Region'. However, the other factions mostly adopted an attitude of watching from the sidelines with cold eyes. They waited for the Jia Nan Academy to retaliate against this extremely bold faction, who they had never heard of before.

According to their expectation, the current Jia Nan Academy would definitely not allow any other factions from the 'Black-Corner Region' to control this city that was closest to the Inner Academy. However, what caused them to be surprised was that there was still no activity from the Inner Academy after nearly two months. This caused some of those significantly large factions from the 'Black-Corner Region' who coveted Feng City to enter an uproar.

After two years of development by Han Feng, Feng City was a large city that was one of the top ones within the 'Black-Corner Region'. A couple of enormous auctions were conducted in this place during these two years. Although the popularity of Feng City had fallen to a low due to the death of Han Feng and the dissolution of the 'Black Alliance', it was still not something that one could underestimate from its size and population. This kind of desirable object was naturally something that possessed a great allure to those factions from the 'Black-Corner Region'.

In the past, no one dared to step into this city because they were afraid

that the Inner Academy would interfere. However, now that they realized that this 'Xiao Gate' remained untouched, it seemed that the Inner Academy had lowered their guard and did not want to pay too much attention to the 'Black-Corner Region'. This had caused some factions to ready themselves to create trouble. From the way they saw it, how could a city with such rich profits be occupied by an unknown small faction?

Therefore, there was finally a medium-sized faction who could not resist taking action after the 'Xiao Gate' had occupied Feng City for around twenty days. This faction had around a hundred people. The strongest among them was a four star Dou Wang. However, there was no news about this faction after it brought a large number of people and swaggered into Feng City. Some of the spies only became aware of the situation after making some inquiries. Nearly half of these people were killed by the 'Xiao Gate'. The remainder had all surrendered...

There was immediately some commotion within the 'Black-Corner Region' the moment this news spread. According to the rules of the 'Black-Corner Region' as long as a faction possessed an expert Dou Wang, it was considered a second-tier faction. If it possessed a Dou Huang, it would be considered a true first-tier faction. For those even stronger, they would possess an extraordinary position just like the 'Black Alliance' in which no one would dare offend. Of course, this was with the exception of a similarly large being like the Jia Nan Academy.

Being able to kill over half a second tier faction, as well as get the other half to surrender meant that the strength of this 'Xiao Gate' was likely one that possessed the qualification to nearly enter the category of a first-tier faction. This kind of strength was enough to cause some of the factions looking at it maliciously to weaken their hostility.

Of course, with the allure of such a large egg like the Feng City, it was natural that one would not be able to enjoy an everlasting peace. Hence, the peace had only lasted for half a month before Xiao Li obtained news that three first-tier factions within the 'Black-Corner Region' had joined hands to attack Feng City and take the managing rights from 'Xiao Gate'.

Three first-tier factions joining hands. This line-up might not be

comparable to the 'Black Alliance' back then, but it could not be underestimated. Faced with this kind of powerful attack which possessed at least three elite Dou Huangs, it was naturally impossible for Xiao Li's own strength to block it.

Hence, a message pigeon quietly flew out from Feng City the moment the enormous amount of troops from the three large factions started to head for Feng City. Finally, it headed for the deep mountains within the Inner Academy. It swiftly flew over...

# Chapter 650: Three Large Factions

“Bang!”

An enormous jade-green energy handprint suddenly surfaced in the sky. It immediately carried the frightening sound of rushing wind as it violently smashed into a mountain wall like a cannonball. Immediately, the entire mountain peak forcefully exploded and violently shook the entire mountain. An arm thick crack line spread like a spiderweb from the mountain peak and covered the entire wall within a short period of time.

Xiao Yan’s expression carried a trace of whiteness as he watched the mountain peak that was on the verge of collapse while wearing a pale-white expression. A joy that could not be hidden covered his dark-black eyes. After practicing for many days, he had finally learned to control the rhythm; therefore, he was able to truly use the ‘Open Mountain Seal’.

Although the ‘Open Mountain Seal’ this time around was a little crude, Xiao Yan believed that he would definitely be able to reach complete mastery through practice if he was given sufficient time. At that time, the strength of this ‘Open Mountain Seal’ would likely become even more frightening.

Everything was difficult at the beginning. Since Xiao Yan already possessed quite a good start, success was only a matter of time...

Xiao Yan panted intensely. He flapped the dark-green wings on his back, and slowly landed on a messy mountain top. After over a month of training, he had currently reached an initial mastery of the ‘Open Mountain Seal’. If he wanted to reach complete mastery, he would need time and opportunity to hone it through actual combat experience.

“It is indeed worthy of being a Di Class High Level Dou Technique. I had merely used it at its initial stage, but its strength is not any weaker than the ‘Flame Splitting Tsunami’. I will have another trump card when fighting with another in the future.” The dark-green flame wings on Xiao Yan’s back quietly disappeared as he softly laughed.

“Ji!”

A bird cry suddenly sounded in the sky just as Xiao Yan planned to recover the exhausted Dou Qi within his body. Xiao Yan lifted his head with some doubt before his expression slightly changed. He extended his hand and a suction force erupted. The messenger pigeon lingering in the sky was sucked down.

Xiao Yan received a tiny bamboo tube from the leg of the messenger bird. He opened it and took out a piece of paper that was folded. His gaze swept over it and his expression sank. After musing for a moment, he flicked his finger and the piece of paper burst into flames. It turned into a pile of ashes that scattered down to the ground below.

“Cai Lin!” Xiao Yan turned around and suddenly shouted loudly to the vast forest all around. However, there was not the slightest reaction even after a long time. Xiao Yan had no other choice as he cried out once again, “Medusa, there is a problem. Come!”

This time around, a seven-colored glow finally rushed out from a certain part of the forest a short moment after the cry sounded. Within a couple of blinks, the cold, indifferent Queen Medusa appeared in front of Xiao Yan.

“There are some issues that require me to go to the ‘Black-Corner Region’. Let’s go.” Xiao Yan automatically ignored the cold face of Queen Medusa as he spoke.

“You can forget about getting me to be your free fighter.” Medusa’s eyebrows were vertical as she spoke in a cool voice.

“There will no longer be anyone who will help you refine the ‘Soul Recovery Pill’ if I die.” Xiao Yan smiled indifferently. His back immediately shook and a beautiful pair of dark-green fire wings appeared. The fire wings flapped and Xiao Yan’s body swiftly rose up into the air as wild wind surrounded his body. Finally, he turned around and charged toward the ‘Black-Corner Region’.

Xiao Yan knew that Xiao Li had met some trouble from the letter. However, he did not plan to gather helpers from the Inner Academy. With his current strength, there was basically no one who could stop him within

the 'Black-Corner Region'. Moreover, one should not forget Medusa who was currently following him after reaching an agreement to cooperate. This was a true elite Dou Zong. Moreover, she might be even stronger than Su Qian!

Given Xiao Yan's and Medusa's strength, it was likely that they would be sufficient to sweep over the entire 'Black-Corner Region'. The so-called Gold Silver Brothers might be able to join hands to delay Su Qian. However, if their opponent was Queen Medusa, it was likely that they would not be so lucky. After all, she was not an ordinary elite Dou Zong.

Medusa clenched her hand tightly as she watched Xiao Yan's figure that was gradually becoming distant. She hesitated for a moment before she angrily clenched her silver teeth. Her delicate legs stepped on empty sky as her figure transformed into a ray of light that swiftly caught up to the black figure in front.

Feng City.

At this moment, all the attention within Feng City was gathered on the grand manor at the middle of the city. That place was likely the place where the one who controlled the city would be decided.

Honestly speaking, most people within the city were not very interested in who would be the one in charge of the city. In any case, they knew that regardless of who was in control, they would ultimately be simply muddling along at the lowest level. Hence, they were even happier to see many factions having a big fight for the position to govern the city, resulting in blood flowing like a river. People who gloated over another's misery and liked to add insult to injury could be found all over the 'Black-Corner Region'.

Around half an hour ago, three large units had swaggered into Feng City before finally rushing to the manor where Medicine Emperor Han Feng had once resided. Currently, that place housed the faction who controlled Feng City, 'Xiao Gate'.

Most of the people within Feng City had heard of these three powerful factions. After all, their reputation was sufficient to spread all over the

‘Black-Corner Region’ since they were first-tier factions. Hence, almost everyone was familiar with them.

Dark Sky Sect, Luo Sha Gate, and Wild Lion Gang. These three large factions were extremely renowned, powerful factions within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. The leaders of the three large factions were experts who were ranked within the top ten of the ‘Black Ranking’. Any random person among them was not weaker than Fan Lao who had died in Xiao Yan’s hands. These three large factions dominated the ‘Black-Corner Region’ and had always been overbearing. They even ignored Han Feng when he invited these three large factions to join him when he had established the ‘Black Alliance’. This kind of action might have caused Han Feng to be extremely furious, but he had let things be because he was afraid of the strength of these three large factions.

Back then, the ‘Black Alliance’ was very grand. However, these three factions were able to choose to reject joining them even in that kind of situation. From this, one could tell that they possessed quite the strong capital. After all, the leaders of the three large factions were no fools. They would naturally be unwilling to offend those whom they could not afford to offend... although Han Feng was someone whom they were afraid of, it was far from the point where they had to bow before him.

There were many people who felt pity for the so-called ‘Xiao Gate’ now that these three factions had sent their forces into Feng City. In the eyes of many people, ‘Xiao Gate’ was just like a student meeting a master when faced with these three old first-tier factions despite the ‘Xiao Gate’ possessing a qualification that was near a first-tier faction. If the leader of ‘Xiao Gate’ was sensible, he would obediently hand over the rights to control the city. This was the wisest choice.

In an wide hall within a large courtyard, the atmosphere was extremely tense and seemed like it would explode with a single spark.

There were currently four groups of people within the hall at this moment. The one furthest in was naturally ‘Xiao Gate’ who controlled the city. Those three others on the outside seemed to be the people from the so-called Dark Sky Sect, Luo Sha Gate, and Wild Lion Gang.

“You are the leader of ‘Xiao Gate’ right? I shall not beat around the bush. Don’t blame us for washing this place with blood if you don’t give me a clear answer within an hour.” A middle-aged large man with a bare chest that showed an enormous lion roaring toward the sky was faintly visible on his chest glanced at Xiao Li. A smile surfaced on his face which was filled with a bloody scent.

“Ahem. Sect Leader Yan is still so forthright. However, I also approve of these words of his.” The middle-aged man had just spoken when a sexily clad beautiful woman covered her mouth and gave a loving laugh. There was a flirtatious poppy flower tattooed on the side of her face near her ear. Although it was beautiful, it possessed a lethal poison.

A shadowy-faced old man on the other side laughed darkly. His shriveled bone-like hand moved on the table, “The old me has not fought for a period of time. I wonder if I will be as ruthless like in the past if I do so.”

There were nearly a hundred people standing in a scattered manner behind these three people. The bodies of these people were covered in blood. Their gazes were as cold as wild beasts when they swept around.

Xiao Li’s gaze was dark and cold as he observed the three people who were singing the same tune. There were a hundred black-clothed men gathered behind him. The bloody stench on their bodies was not any weaker than those fellows in front of him. At one glance, one could tell that they had rich battle experience and were vicious individuals. The reason the other party did not act immediately upon their arrival was partly because of the significantly strong aura of these black-clothed individuals on Xiao Li’s side. Otherwise, they would have long since attacked right away given their character. Why else would they repeatedly chatter in this place?

“I am clearly aware that the three of you have quite big fists within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. You are all strong and there is nothing I can do if you want to occupy Feng City. It is possible for me to hand over Feng City. But... there is only one city. Who should I hand it over to?” Xiao Li played with the teacup in his hand when he suddenly asked a question.

There was a slight change in the atmosphere within the hall when Xiao Li's words sounded. A moment later, that sexily clad beautiful woman laughed, "Your scheming is not bad, but this kind of plan to alienate us with one another is useless. You need not worry about who is eventually going to be in charge of this city. All you need to do is to lead your people out of Feng City."

Xiao Li's hand tightened its grip on the teacup. He sighed with some disappointment in his heart. They were indeed very experienced and did not show any sign of falling for this ruse.

"It is possible for us to leave Feng City. However, I am not the leader of 'Xiao Gate'. Should you not wait for our leader to return if you want us to get lost?" Xiao Li frowned. Some killing intent surfaced on his cold face as he spoke in a deep voice. The current him needed to fight for some time for Xiao Yan to hurry back!

"Chattering non-stop. Where did you find all this nonsense to say? The old me is not here to discuss anything with you. I am here to inform you to get out of this city!" The large man with exposed arms immediately widened his eyes at Xiao Li's words. His palm slammed onto the table in front of him until it was in pieces as he let out a savage laugh.

Xiao Li's expression immediately became gloomy. The large group of black-clothed men behind him also emitted a 'Clang' sound as they drew their weapons from their waists. In an instant, the atmosphere within the hall had become anxious with swords drawn. It was one that would break out into a killing fight at the slightest disagreement.

"Ke ke, you want my 'Xiao Gate' to get out of Feng City? Even Han Feng wasn't qualified to do so. What makes you think you have the right?"

A faint cold laugh suddenly resounded just as the atmosphere was about to completely collapse. A black figure immediately appeared in the middle of the hall in a ghost-like manner in front of everyone's eyes...

# Chapter 651: Shock and Awe

The eyes of the leaders of the three large factions involuntarily shrank a little as they watched this black-robed, young man quietly appear in a ghost-like manner. This fellow had unusual agility, and was actually able to enter this large hall without making any noise. Moreover, he had escaped their notice. Such a level of agility did indeed cause others to be extremely afraid.

The anxious sword-drawn atmosphere within the hall had also become dull following the appearance of the black-robed, young man. That atmosphere that was about to collapse slowly calmed down due to their fear for each other.

A joy surged onto Xiao Li's face when he saw the sudden appearance of the black-robed, young man. Since Xiao Yan had managed to rush over, it was likely that they could smoothly settle the calamity today. He had always held a confidence that exceeded common sense toward the former's ability.

"Who are you?" The first person to open his mouth was the old man from the Dark Sky Sect. His gaze was filled with shadows as he stared at Xiao Yan and asked in a hoarse, cold voice.

"Friend, I shall warn you that this is a matter between us and the 'Xiao Gate'. It is best that an outsider doesn't intervene. Getting involved in something that doesn't concern you is the most illogical act within the 'Black-Corner Region'." The large man with exposed arms locked his gaze firmly on Xiao Yan as he spoke in a solemn voice. The strange agility that the person in front had displayed caused them to be shocked. Hence, no one dared underestimate this person.

"He is the true leader of our 'Xiao Gate'. How can you say that he is an outsider?" Xiao Li smiled faintly.

The leaders of the three large factions were slightly startled when they heard these words. Their expressions slightly sank. It was unexpected that what Xiao Li had said earlier was actually the truth. The leader of 'Xiao

Gate' was indeed someone else. The three of them looked at each other before that shadowy old man laughed dryly, "This friend looks a little foreign? It seems that I have not seen you in the 'Black-Corner Region' before? May I know your name?"

"I am Xiao Yan. I have just entered the 'Black-Corner Region'. Please do bear with me if I offended you in any way." Xiao Yan smiled slightly. However, the simple name suddenly caused the atmosphere of the entire hall to abruptly stiffen. The smile that hung on the faces of the leaders of the three factions slowly stiffened.

"Xiao Yan? You are the Xiao Yan who killed Fan Lao and Han Feng?" The sexily clad beautiful woman's face was filled with surprise before she involuntarily cried out a moment later.

Xiao Yan smiled as he said in a casual manner, "Although it is not some honorable thing, the two of them did indeed lose their lives by my hand. Ke ke, why? Don't tell me the three of you have come here this time around to seek justice for them?"

The faces of the three of them immediately became volatile upon hearing Xiao Yan's acknowledgement. The recent death of Han Feng and the dissolution of the 'Black Alliance' was basically a huge matter that had shaken the entire 'Black-Corner Region'. The person who had caused all of this to happen was this fellow in front of them. He looked extremely young. Moreover, they were terribly unlucky to actually meet this fellow.

The strength of the three of them was at the very most a little stronger than Fan Lao. They would undoubtedly be much weaker when compared with Han Feng. Even Han Feng had died in the hands of this fellow. If they were to really fight, it was likely that their chances of victory would not be high even if they were to join hands.

The eyes of the three of them crossed each other as they involuntarily frowned. Originally, they had thought that this was merely a small faction. It was unexpected that they actually ended up dragging this fierce god over...

"Ha ha, what is brother Xiao saying? We are not familiar with Han Feng.

How could it be possible that we are here to seek justice for him?" The sexily clad beautiful woman covered her mouth as she laughed in an enchanting manner.

"The three of you have launched such a big campaign to come to my 'Feng City'. Is something the matter?" The smile on Xiao Yan's face might be calm, but the three people on the other side did not think that Xiao Yan's character was this kind since he was the young man who had killed Fan Lao and Han Feng. One did not only rely on strength to be able to muddle along in the 'Black-Corner Region' to such an extent.

Being aggressively pressed for answers by Xiao Yan, the faces of the three leaders also changed slightly. Their motive was already extremely obvious. Yet, the other party was acting stupid. This had a little mocking taste to it.

"I believe that chief Xiao should be clearly aware of our intentions. Feng City is a big cake. Its rich profits are something that would cause anyone's eyes to turn red. We are naturally no exception." The large man with exposed arm was the first to be unable to control himself, so he replied with a deep voice.

"So, the three of you are thinking of snatching my 'Xiao Gate's' controlling rights of Feng City?" Xiao Yan laughed softly as his eyes narrowed. There was, however, no sign of any emotion on his face.

The three leaders quietly looked at one another before they instantly clenched their teeth. The profits of Feng City were extremely great. It was quite difficult to get them to give it up even with Xiao Yan's appearance. As people from the 'Black-Corner Region', the blood in their bones were filled with a restless seed. Taking a risk was something that frequently occurred. Moreover, given their strength, if the three of them were to join hands, it was not certain that they would be defeated by Xiao Yan. If they managed to delay Xiao Yan, it should not be difficult to bath the 'Xiao Gate' in blood with their numerous powerful subordinates.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and studied the faint fierceness that slowly and obscurely surfaced in the eyes of the three leaders. A cold smile

surfaced on the corner of his mouth. The people from the 'Black-Corner Region' were indeed a group of greedy fellows who placed profits as the highest priority.

Xiao Li, who was behind Xiao Yan, also seemed to have sensed something. His expression gradually became cold as he quietly gave a hand sign. The large group of black-clothed individuals behind him slowly tightened their grip on their weapons.

A graceful figure suddenly appeared behind Xiao Yan without any forewarning just when the atmosphere in the hall had turned quiet and tense.

The woman who had appeared immediately caused the atmosphere in the hall to become stiff. Xiao Li's face was shocked. He was also acquainted with this frightening woman who had been chasing after Xiao Yan with the intent to kill him. By appearing at this moment, she was undoubtedly exacerbating their situation.

The three leaders on the opposite side had similar expressions as Xiao Li. Their faces had become shocked at this moment. This was because they did not discover the slightest trace of air movement. It was as though this woman had been standing there without moving, only to reveal herself at this moment. This clearly told them that she was no ordinary woman...

This kind of speed was even more frightening and shocking compared to when Xiao Yan had appeared earlier. Earlier, Xiao Yan's speed was as fast as ghost. However, one could at least vaguely identify the direction he had come from. This lady, however... did not allow them to sense anything.

Moreover, the thing that caused them to be most terrified was that this woman might appear to be carelessly standing in that spot but the aura which faintly seeped out from her was sufficient to cause their hearts to feel stagnant...

The strength of the three great leaders were all at the Dou Huang class. Despite their strength, they still felt such a feeling of pressure. That meant that this bewitching beauty in front of them might be an ultimate expert

of the Dou Zong class!

“Dou Zong...” The throats of the three great leaders quietly rolled a little. Cold perspiration surfaced on their foreheads. Back then, the ‘Black Alliance’ did not even possess a true elite Dou Zong despite its strength. It was unexpected that this small ‘Xiao Gate’ currently possessed such a frightening person.

Xiao Yan also sensed Queen Medusa suddenly appear behind him. He turned around and smiled toward her before giving Xiao Li a comforting hand sign. Only after seeing Xiao Yan’s action did Xiao Li, who was drenched in cold sweat, quietly sigh in relief. From the looks of the situation, it seemed that Xiao Yan had already reached some sort of agreement with this terrifying woman.

Medusa did not have the slightest reaction toward Xiao Yan’s smile. Her narrow and long pupils were filled with an unusual allure coldly swept across the hall. Anyone who was caught by her gaze would feel their skin turn cold. Some of those who were weaker could not help but feel their knees turn soft. The pressure of the aura of a Dou Zong was actually this strong.

The heads of the three leaders turned numb as they stared at Medusa’s gaze. It was a long while later before the sexily clad beautiful woman forced a smile on her face and said, “It is unexpected that there is actually such a strong person sitting in ‘Xiao Gate’. The three of us were really somewhat blind this time around.”

The other two leaders laughed dryly and nodded after these words were spoken from the pretty woman. Even the gang leader of the Wild Lion Gang who appeared to be a little ill-tempered did not dare to provoke them with his words. Although he was not considered weak in the Dou Huang class, he was just like a hungry dog that met a lion in the hands of a true elite Dou Zong.

Xiao Yan rubbed his hands on his sleeves as he watched the three of them with a half-smile.

The three leaders became somewhat unnatural under the somewhat

malicious gaze of Xiao Yan. A moment later, that shadowy looking old man finally laughed dryly, "Today's matter is actually a misunderstanding. It is only natural that we don't dare offend since Feng City belongs to chief Xiao. You must inform the others not to do any foolish things after returning today."

"Ha ha, that's right." The pretty woman covered her mouth and immediately stood up before bowing toward Xiao Yan. She spoke with a loving laugh, "Chief Xiao, please don't take our offence today to heart. We will definitely come and apologize in the future. It is already late today. There are still some things that need to be settled in the sect. We shall not disturb you any further."

This pretty woman hurriedly turned around after speaking and immediately left this place, that caused her to feel a great uneasiness. The two others by her side also hurriedly stood up with the intent of quickly leaving.

"The three of you need not be in such a hurry." A faint laugh caused them to immediately paused their footsteps with frustration just as they were about to exit the door. They looked at each other. All they could do was clench their teeth and turn around to look at the smiling black-robed, young man in the hall.

"Since the three of you are so interested in Feng City, why don't we engage in a business transaction..." Xiao Yan interlocked his ten fingers. His laughter reverberated within the hall, causing the three leaders to be stunned.

# Chapter 652: Gathering Helpers

“Business transaction? What kind of business transaction?”

The three leaders who had originally thought that Xiao Yan wanted to turn against them were stunned when they heard the words that leaped from Xiao Yan’s mouth. They immediately asked uncertainly.

Xiao Yan smiled and mused for a moment before speaking slowly, “The profits in Feng City are indeed extremely rich. I can allow your three factions to occupy a share in Feng City.”

“What does chief Xiao want us to do?” The three leaders looked at each other before the shadowy-faced old man carefully asked. They did not believe that a pie would fall from the sky for no reason.

“I have an enemy which is quite strong. Although I already have confidence to contend with them given my current strength, I still require some helpers.” Xiao Yan’s gaze locked onto the three of them and laughed faintly. “I only require you three leaders to lend me a hand at that time.”

Xiao Li, who was frowning after hearing Xiao Yan’s earlier words from behind him, also began to relax. The enemy that Xiao Yan had mentioned was naturally the Misty Cloud Sect. He was clearly aware in his heart that although Xiao Yan’s strength had soared, he was weak in numbers. On the other hand, the Misty Cloud Sect had numerous experts, and a strong foundation. By just relying on their few little scrimps, there was a helpless feeling of mayflies attempting to shake a large tree.

The intention he had stated earlier was that he wanted to come to the ‘Black-Corner Region’ to expand and strengthen his faction. However, if he were to rely on this method, it would at least require a year before they would be able to achieve the strength to contend with the Misty Cloud Sect. This current method of Xiao Yan to gather the help of other factions within the ‘Black-Corner Region’ would have the quickest result. However, they needed to lose some profits. This was nothing compared to the blood feud created from the destruction of the clan.

“Enemy?” The three leaders were startled when they heard this. Their

expression immediately became a little volatile. Xiao Yan still needed to gather helpers despite his current strength. Just how strong was his enemy? Although the profit of Feng City was rich, it would not be worthwhile if they were to end up being pulled into a firepit.

“May I know which faction on the continent is the enemy that chief Xiao mentions?” The sexily clad pretty woman finally could not resist opening her mouth to ask a moment later.

Xiao Yan laughed softly. A dense coldness faintly flickered through his dark-black eyes, “Although that faction has been hiding in one corner like a tortoise all these years, I think that everyone should have heard of them.”

“Jia Ma Empire’s, Misty Cloud Sect!”

A faint, cold voice was slowly spat out of Xiao Yan’s mouth before resounding within the large hall.

“The Misty Cloud Sect?” The three leaders softly muttered this somewhat familiar name in their mouths. Their expression changed a little a moment later. They exchanged glances with one another before that shadow-faced old man voiced his thoughts, “I seem to have heard some news about this faction. If the news I have obtained is correct, the Misty Cloud Sect has an elite Dou Zong!”

“Aye, I have also obtained some news earlier that an elite Dou Zong had appeared within the Jia Ma Empire. His name... seemed to be called Yun Shan?” The sexily clad pretty woman also recalled a little as she spoke with a solemn expression.

Xiao Yan did not feel surprised that the three leaders had heard of the Misty Cloud Sect. Although the ‘Black-Corner Region’ was tens of thousands of kilometers from the Jia Ma Empire, it would not hinder some of the very important news from spreading. Dou Zong. An expert of this class could be considered a top notch expert even when placed in the entire Dou Qi continent. Hence, the news began to spread like wildfire once it was spread from the Jia Ma Empire.

The leaders of the three large factions looked at one another. A moment

later, they shook their heads in a somewhat embarrassed manner. The shadowy-faced old man smiled awkwardly to Xiao Yan and said, “Chief Xiao, you cannot blame us for this decision. The ‘Black-Corner Region’ is thousands of kilometers from the Misty Cloud Sect. Even with our speed, it would likely require at least two to three months to make a trip there and back. Moreover... the Misty Cloud Sect’s strength is indeed strong. It can be considered to be somewhat renowned even in the entire north-western region of the continent. I think that it won’t be easy to take revenge even with our help.”

The strength of the Misty Cloud Sect could be considered to be near that of a first-tier faction even in the entire north-western part of the continent. If these first-tier factions from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ were to be placed on the entire continent, it was obvious that they would be ranked a little lower. If one wanted to find one single faction within the entire ‘Black-Corner Region’, it was likely that none of them would be able to surpass the Misty Cloud Sect. The earlier ‘Black Alliance’ might perhaps be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Misty Cloud Sect, but it was an alliance and not a single faction.

Of course, if Xiao Yan were able to gather the factions within the entire ‘Black-Corner Region’, he would naturally be able to far surpass the Misty Cloud Sect. However, it was basically impossible to unite everyone in this chaotic place.

“Ke ke, you three leaders must be afraid that Xiao Yan is unable to deal with the Misty Cloud Sect, and will end up dragging all of you into a mess, right?” Xiao Yan was not infuriated by the reaction of these people. He merely laughed softly.

The three of them gave an embarrassed smile but did not try to defend themselves.

“Other than Yun Shan, the Misty Cloud Sect will not have more than three elite Dou Huangs in total. The remainder are mostly some Elders at the Dou Wang or Dou Ling class, and there is nothing to fear from them. The lower level disciples pose no threat at all.” Xiao Yan laughed in a faint voice, “We also possess an elite Dou Zong. As for Dou Huangs, is there

anyone who is stronger than Han Feng? Hence, we only need to find some helpers who are qualified to help us resist the large forces of the Misty Cloud Sect. This is not difficult for the three of you.”

The eyes of the three leaders flickered, but they still remained quiet.

“They are indeed a group of people who will do nothing without seeing the reward...” Xiao Yan’s brows were knit slightly when he saw the united silence of these three people. He immediately shook his head helplessly and said, “The ambition of the ‘Xiao Gate’ does not stop at Feng City. We will definitely continue to spread throughout the ‘Black-Corner Region’ in the future. Given our strength, the profits that we will obtain in the future are countless times greater than now. If the three of you are willing to help me, I will not forget all of you when it comes to this big cake in the future...”

A boiling heat surged within the hearts of these three leaders when they heard Xiao Yan’s words. Currently, the ‘Xiao Gate’ possessed Xiao Yan and the mysterious Dou Zong behind him. Its strength had already exceeded that of the ‘Black Alliance’ back then. It was likely that there was no faction within the ‘Black-Corner Region’ who could contend with them. Hence, these words of Xiao Yan had undoubtedly held great attraction to them. However... that damn Misty Cloud Sect, was not some ordinary being.

Xiao Yan smiled once again as he saw the changing expression of the three people. His voice faintly unleashed the final potent medicine, “You all should have heard of the ‘Mighty Huang Pill’, no?”

The three leaders immediately raised their heads when the calm voice sounded. Their gazes stared firmly at Xiao Yan and their eyes were filled with a wild joy.

The ‘Mighty Huang Pill’ was a medicinal pill which was known to be at the peak of the tier 6 medicinal pills. Its effect was very simple. Using it would allow an elite Dou Huang to raise his strength one or two stars within a short period of time. Moreover, the ‘Mighty Huang Pill’ has another use: it could refine one’s bones.

The remnant medicinal strength after the increase in one's strength would help strengthen the body of the person who had consumed it. Although this kind of strengthening could not be compared with the kind of frightening strengthening that Xiao Yan had experienced underground, it would still be able to increase one's fighting ability significantly.

Simply speaking, the effect of the 'Mighty Huang Pill', and the 'Dou Spirit Pill' was similar. However, the 'Dou Spirit Pill' was only useful to a Dou Wang, while the 'Mighty Huang Pill' had great use to an elite Dou Huang. Moreover, it had the additional effect of strengthening one's bones.

Even without this effect, it would still be one of the medicinal pills that was most sought after by an elite Dou Huang. The allure of raising one's strength by one or two stars was too attractive to them. It should be known that when one reached the level of a Dou Huang, it was not an uncommon thing for some of the unlucky ones to have difficulty raising their strength by one level even after a couple of years.

A medicinal pill that could raise one's strength would always possess the greatest allure!

Hence, the three leaders did not hide the desire within their hearts. This kind of medicinal pill was not something that they had never thought about. However, it was likely that Han Feng alone possessed ability to refine it within the entire 'Black-Corner Region'. However, they never had a good relationship with Han Feng. Hence, it was naturally impossible for him to spend the effort to refine this kind of medicinal pill for them. It was this reason that their hearts were all lifted when Xiao Yan mentioned this name.

"Chief Xiao is able to refine the 'Mighty Huang Pill'?" The wild joy within the eyes of the three of them slowly began to withdraw a moment later. The bare-armed Wild Lion Gang leader was the first to involuntarily inquire.

The other two people hurriedly threw their gaze to Xiao Yan when they heard these words. A 'Mighty Huang Pill' was a peak tier 6 medicinal pill.

Back then, even Han Feng's chances of success when refining it were not very high, much less this very young Xiao Yan.

"I would not be mentioning this in front of the three of you if I didn't know how to refine it." Xiao Yan smiled. He flicked his finger and a wisp of jade-green flame suddenly surfaced. The temperature of the entire hall immediately soared following the appearance of the flame. Even the air had become exceptionally dry.

"This is... 'Heavenly Flame'?"

The eyes of the three of them shrank as they looked at the wisp of jade-green flame. Their feet involuntarily took a couple of steps back. Being elite Dou Huangs, they were clearly aware of just what kind of frightening strength a 'Heavenly Flame' possessed. Despite their strength, it would be extremely troublesome if they were to touch even a little bit of this thing.

"It is only natural for me to have my capital in order to kill Han Feng." Xiao Yan looked at the three people as he spoke with a faint smile. His long finger danced agilely as that wisp of dark-green flame obediently lingered and danced around his finger.

"Since I am able to kill him, it is only natural that I have surpassed him. Why can't I refine the things that he can?"

"If the three of you agree with my condition, I will definitely hand over the 'Mighty Huang Pill' once the matter is successfully settled. Moreover, all of you will be able to enjoy a profit in the 'Black-Corner Region' that would cause others to envy you. What do you say?" Xiao Yan's soft laughter landed in the ears of the three of them, causing their breathing to slowly become rough and heavy.

Their faces turned a little flush as their eyes flicked about in a volatile manner. Their hearts had also descended into a great conflict.

Xiao Yan ceased saying anything in the face of the conflict of these three people. He narrowed his eyes and waited for the final reply of these three people. The temperature of the wisp of dark-green flame on his finger also quietly rose with his mood while he waited...

The three leaders finally recovered from their struggle when the temperature of the hall rose to a certain degree. They looked at one another before they eventually grit their teeth and nodded violently. They would go all out and seek wealth even amid danger!

“Alright, we will do as you say!”

# Chapter 653: Gathering Medicinal Ingredients

The three leaders finally nodded and agreed under the allure of the 'Mighty Huang Pill' which they could not resist. Xiao Yan naturally sighed in relief in his heart when he saw that he had achieved his motive. After discussing some simple measures with the three of them about their accommodations in Feng City, he allowed them to bid him goodbye and leave.

The large hall immediately became empty after that large menacing group of people that was led by the three leaders left. Seeing that everything had been agreed upon, Xiao Li waved his hand and indicated for his subordinates to stand down.

"Third brother, although these fellows have already agreed to our condition, we should still watch them carefully. It is only too common for the people of the 'Black-Corner Region' to go back on their words." Xiao Li slowly walked to Xiao Yan's side. His gaze vaguely glanced at Medusa before he frowned and spoke in a deep voice.

"Ke ke, this is only natural. Were it not for Medusa being here today, it is likely that they would not have agreed with our conditions so easily." Xiao Yan laughed and said.

"Medusa?" Xiao Li was startled when he heard this name. He immediately seemed to have recalled something. His face was shocked as he immediately cried out involuntarily, "She is the Queen Medusa from the Snake-People race within the Vast Tager Desert?"

Xiao Li and Xiao Ding had muddled along at the edge of the desert for quite a long time back then. Hence, he was extremely familiar with this Queen Medusa who was extremely renowned for her beauty and ferocity. However, he had never expected that the Queen Medusa whom the entire Jia Ma Empire was extremely afraid of was actually this bewitching beauty beside him.

“Keep it a secret.” Xiao Yan smiled and waved his hand. After which he cupped his hands toward the cold and indifferent Medusa by his side and said with a smile, “This time around, thank you very much.”

“You want me to help you fight Yun Shan?” Medusa’s pretty eyes glanced at Xiao Yan as he coldly laughed, “Why should I help you? Yun Shan is currently also an elite Dou Zong. I don’t need to provoke such a powerful opponent.”

Xiao Yan carelessly smiled as he softly spoke, “We have agreed to the terms of our collaboration back then. You cannot reject my request at crucial moments. Your majesty, you won’t forget the words you spoke before right?”

“You are cheating me again?” Queen Medusa’s eyebrows were vertical as a cold bone-numbing voice that contained some fury sounded.

Xiao Yan sighed and shook his head. A moment later, he spoke in a faint voice, “Relax. When the time comes, you can just sit idly by the side if you don’t want to intervene. I will not force you.”

Medusa knit her brows slightly as she snorted, “Don’t think that such words will work on me. I will naturally decide after watching the situation when the time comes. I, Medusa, will not just simply become a weapon in someone’s hand.” After the cold snort, her body trembled as she once again strangely disappeared from the hall without waiting for Xiao Yan’s reply.

Xiao Li knit his brows intently as he stared the spot where Medusa had disappeared from. A moment later, he could not resist speaking, “Third brother, it looks like it is not very sensible to rely on her.”

“I have never placed my hope on her. This woman may be extraordinary strong, but her character is too rebellious. No one could subdue her. If it was not because I could take out something that attracted her, it is likely that she would still continue to relentlessly chase after me with the intent to kill.” Xiao Yan shook his head and voiced his thoughts.

“What do we do then? Without her help, our chances when dealing with Yun Shan aren’t very high.” Xiao Li was somewhat worried as he spoke. He

was similarly aware that Yun Shan was the greatest trump card of the Misty Cloud Sect. If this old fellow did not fall, the Misty Cloud Sect would forever stand in the Jia Ma Empire.

“Relax, leave Yun Shan to me.”

Xiao Yan waved his hand and slowly sat back into a chair. He held his head with his hands and descended into deep thought.

At this moment, Xiao Yan finally felt that taking revenge was not a simple matter. If he really did possess a strength that no one could match, destroying the Misty Cloud Sect would naturally be extremely simple. However, he currently did not have absolute confidence in defeating Yun Shan even though his strength had soared greatly. Moreover, there were still many experts from the Misty Cloud Sect below Yun Shan as well as the thousands of low level disciples. He had personally tasted the formation of the Misty Cloud Sect back then, and naturally knew how powerful it was.

From the looks of it, the most important thing now was to quickly increase his strength...

Xiao Yan sighed. His gaze was suddenly thrown to the dark-black ring on his finger as he became slightly startled. A little joy immediately surged into his eyes. He had nearly forgotten this ultimately fighting strength... other people addressed Yao Lao as Yan zun-zhe. In other words, the old Yao Lao was definitely an expert at the Dou Zun class. Even though he was currently in the form of a spirit, he would be able to gain the upper hand in a fight with an expert at the peak of the Dou Huang class with the help of the ‘Bone Chilling Flame’...

Xiao Yan’s fighting strength would undoubtedly soar greatly if Yao Lao could reawaken!

Moreover, Xiao Yan had currently already merged two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flame’. It was likely that he possessed the ability to help Yao Lao refine a body that could accommodate his spirit. Once Yao Lao’s spirit possessed a place to reside, his strength would definitely also return to his peak. At that time... a mere Dou Zong like Yun Shan was not someone to

be afraid of in the eyes of an elite Dou Zun.

However, Yao Lao had fallen into a slumber. Xiao Yan was also totally unaware of how to refine a body, as well as the various ingredients that one needed to do so. Therefore, the first thing he needed to do in order to refine a body was to wake Yao Lao from his slumber.

Once Yao Lao awakened, not only would Xiao Yan's fighting strength soar, but he would also be able to avoid many unnecessary detours given Yao Lao's extremely great experience.

With Xiao Yan's current ability, he would naturally not act like he did a couple of years ago in order to wake Yao Lao's spirit who was in a slumber. At that time, he had stumbled around blindly in order to luckily wake Yao Lao up. Now, as long as he was given sufficient medicinal ingredients, he would be able to think of two to three methods to wake Yao Lao's spirit.

Xiao Yan's hand suddenly slammed onto the table. The sudden sound shocked Xiao Li by the side. The latter raised his head and was stunned as he looked at the sudden joy on Xiao Yan's face.

"Second brother, can you help me gather a couple of medicinal ingredients?" Xiao Yan smiled and said. The medicinal ingredients he needed were all quite rare. If he were to go and look for them alone, he would not know just when he would be able to gather all of them. Therefore, it was naturally most appropriate to hand this matter to Xiao Li who was managing a city.

"No problem. Feng City coincidentally has a couple of medicinal ingredient stores that possess quite the strength in the 'Black-Corner Region'. Currently, they are all trying to curry favor with us. We can look for them if we need medicinal ingredients." Xiao Li nodded his head and asked, "What kind of medicinal ingredients you need?"

Xiao Yan turned around and picked up the pen that lay on the table. After which, the pen swiftly danced across the paper. A moment later, he handed it over to Xiao Li and instructed, "It is best if we can find all of these medicinal ingredients. Send someone to other big cities in the

‘Black-Corner Region’ to purchase them if they aren’t available in Feng City. It is best that they can all be obtained within half a month.”

“Dark Immortal Flower, Fiery Sun Spirit Leaf...” Xiao Li’s gaze swept over the paper and studied the numerous foreign medicinal ingredients’ name on it he had normally not heard of... He let out a bitter laugh and carefully stored the paper. He said, “I will try my best. It is likely that it won’t be easy to find these medicinal ingredients. The price to purchase them will also not be cheap. However, it is fortunate that those big shops in the city have paid some gold as tribute to us during this one month. However, it might not be sufficient to use this money to purchase the ingredients...”

Xiao Yan only recalled that he was no longer in the Inner Academy after hearing Xiao Li’s words. All of his ‘Fire Energy’ did not have any use as a currency in this place. In other words, they had once again fallen into financial distress.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He waved his hand and over ten jade bottles appeared on the table. “These medicinal pills are all things that Han Feng refined in the past. They are of quite a high-tier. They should fetch a large amount of money if you try to sell them. We will first settle the urgent needs. During this period, I will remain in Feng City and use the medicinal ingredients that Han Feng left behind to refine some medicinal pills. This will continue until you have gathered all the medicinal ingredients that I need.”

Xiao Li also sighed in relief upon hearing that Xiao Yan would remain in Feng City. With the latter’s medicinal refining ability that was not inferior to Han Feng, it was likely that the reputation of ‘Xiao Gate’ would swiftly become renowned throughout the ‘Black-Corner Region’. A high-tier medicinal pill was something that an unknown number of people would foolishly chase after.

Xiao Li stored the jade bottles on the table into his storage ring and voiced his thoughts, “Given Han Feng’s ability, these medicinal pills should be able to support us for a period of time. You can relax and refine. Leave the matter of the medicinal ingredients for me to settle. I will gather all of them even if I have to resort to robbing.”

A wild ruthlessness surfaced on Xiao Li's face after he spoke. He clearly understood that these medicinal ingredients were extremely important to Xiao Yan. Otherwise, Xiao Yan would not tell him about it in such a serious manner given the former's character. What he needed to do was to try his best to help Xiao Yan. He would not care even if he ended up sacrificing his life!

Back then, the words that Xiao Ding had spoken to him when he headed for the 'Black-Corner Region' still remained in his heart.

"You can die, but third brother cannot!"

Xiao Yan's nose felt a little runny as he studied the bright redness that had suddenly surged into Xiao Li's eyes. His father's disappearance, and the destruction that the Xiao clan's face. These two brothers were a great distance from the empire, muddling along in a lonely and difficult manner in this foreign place. All that they desired was to merely be able to obtain sufficient strength to take revenge on the Misty Cloud Sect.

For this aim, Xiao Yan did not hesitate in training for one year within the academy and suffer two years of pain underground.

For this goal, Xiao Li did not hesitate to travel over a great distance to the 'Black-Corner Region', and to swallow the 'Life Devouring Pill' in order to exchange his life for strength.

For this goal, Xiao Ding had led the remnant members of the Xiao clan, making them endure in the Jia Ma Empire. His motive was to wait for their return.

This was because all the members of the Xiao clan believed that a Xiao clan young man, who had been creating miracles, would definitely be able to shock their hearts and create a miracle just like he did many years ago!

# Chapter 654: Refining the Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill

A warm gentle light shone over the quiet secret chamber, expelling all the darkness within it.

A flat bed was placed in a corner of the secret chamber. It leaned against the wall. Xiao Yan was seated cross-legged on it. Various kinds of medicinal ingredients, which were wrapped nicely, were placed in front of him. Some of these medicinal ingredients were quite rare, and could definitely be sold for quite a high price within the 'Black-Corner Region'. Moreover, there were quite a large amount of them. One really could not help but sigh at the richness of Han Feng's wealth.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept over the large number of medicinal ingredients placed in front of him. He could not help but shake his head, and his heart once again sighed in surprise at Han Feng's wealth. Regardless of how wealthy Han Feng was, it all ended up benefiting Xiao Yan now.

"I was barely able to gather the necessary ingredients needed to refine the 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill' from these medicinal ingredients." Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze, mused for a moment before he immediately spoke in a somewhat surprised voice.

The 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill'. Xiao Yan recalled the Ice Emperor Hai Bodong in the Jia Ma Empire when he thought of this medicinal pill. Being his first partner, this old man whose character appeared a little cold and indifferent, gave Xiao Yan quite a good impression. This was especially the case when he actually provided help while Xiao Yan was being chased after by the Misty Cloud Sect. This was sufficient to cause Xiao Yan to feel extremely grateful toward Hai Bodong.

Hence, Xiao Yan had kept the medicinal pill he owed Hai Bodong back then in his heart. In the past, he did not possess the ability to refine it. However, he already possessed the ability after having left the underground. Though, the medicinal ingredients he had gathered with much difficulty in the past had completely disappeared while he was

underground. It was only natural for Xiao Yan to remember Hai Bodong now that he actually saw that he had a set of medicinal ingredients he could refine the 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill' with.

"Ke ke, since there is sufficient medicinal ingredients, I shall first help that old fellow refine one. Otherwise, I won't be able to answer to him if he inquires about it when I return to the Jia Ma Empire in the future." The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth wore a smile as he shook his head slightly. He waved his hand and a large crimson-colored medicinal cauldron flashed out of the Serene Sea Storage Ring. Finally, it landed in front of him.

The crimson-colored medicinal cauldron was large in size. Its body was covered with different kinds of unique lines. Various life-like fierce beast drawings were carved into it. Their savage large mouths were open, and if one were to place one's ear close beside it to listen, one would be able to hear some strange roars that were faintly emitted from the medicinal cauldron. These unusual characteristics all indicated that this crimson cauldron was extraordinary.

This crimson-colored cauldron was naturally not something that belonged to Xiao Yan. It was something that Han Feng had left behind. From the looks of it, this was something the latter had used to refine pills.

"This fellow had been lording over the 'Black-Corner Region', and had obtained quite the benefits." Xiao Yan's hand gently tapped on the crimson-colored medicinal cauldron. The clear sound of metal colliding pleasantly reverberated in the secret chamber. With this, Xiao Yan nodded his head with satisfaction and laughed softly.

Although Xiao Yan was unaware of the origin of this crimson medicinal cauldron. He was clearly aware that with the exception of the so-called Black Demon Medicinal Cauldron, which was ranked in the 'Heavenly Cauldron Ranking', the other medicinal cauldrons that he had used could perhaps only be described with the word 'garbage' when compared to this cauldron.

Xiao Yan flicked his finger, and a wisp of dark-green flame appeared on its tip. The temperature of the secret chamber immediately rose following

the appearance of the flame. However, this naturally did not pose any hindrance to Xiao Yan. His gaze focused intently on the medicinal cauldron. A moment later, he waved his hand, and the dark-green flame shot out before eventually following the fire outlet of the crimson medicinal cauldron to enter into it.

The dark-green flame suddenly expanded after entering the medicinal cauldron, turning into a fierce flame that withered and soared.

The dark-green flame surged wildly within the medicinal cauldron, and repeatedly unleashed a terrifying temperature. However, regardless of how this temperature soared, that crimson medicinal cauldron continued to show no activity. Despite the temperature within it being shockingly high, its outer surface was still as cool as the air outside.

“Good cauldron!” Xiao Yan’s eyes were fiery hot as he stared at this large item. A moment later, he could not resist opening his mouth to praise. Although he had yet to begin refining a medicinal pill, he was still able to guess just how great of a help this medicinal cauldron would be in the refinement of pills through his experiment. One could even unceremoniously say that using this medicinal cauldron to refine pills would likely increase the success of refinement by quite a bit. For an alchemist, what thing other than a medicinal cauldron that could raise the chances of success in the refinement of pills possessed a greater allure?

The temperature within the medicinal cauldron gradually reached Xiao Yan’s desired level as the dark-green flame churned within it. During this period of time, Xiao Yan also repeatedly read the refining method for the ‘Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill’. Yao Lao had already passed the medicinal formula to him back then. However, he had never taken action to refine it due to his refining ability being too poor back then.

Xiao Yan’s mind gradually became focused after he read the medicinal formula for the ‘Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill’ a couple of times within his head. He waved his sleeves and the few medicinal ingredients were skillfully thrown into the fierce flame within the medicinal cauldron.

The medicinal ingredients had just entered the medicinal cauldron when

it began to wither at a rate visible to the naked eye under the high temperature. Although the leaves of the medicinal ingredients had withered, its core area was slowly emitting different colored liquids. A moment later, the few drops of different colored liquids surfaced on the dark-green flame after the leaves were completely withered. The impurity contained within them was slowly removed as it was grilled.

Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly as he faintly glanced at the medicinal liquid that was slowly becoming purer under the grilling of the dark-green flame. His ten fingers flicked one after another as the medicinal ingredients that were placed in front of him flew about as he did so. Finally, they were all poured into the medicinal cauldron. The scene of medicinal ingredients dancing all over the place was quite spectacular.

Of course, Xiao Yan would naturally not dare to be this careless and bold if this were the past. However, things were different now. With the soaring of his strength, his control of the flame also grew increasingly more sophisticated. His current ability along with the help from the dark-green flame that was born from the merger of two kinds of 'Heavenly Flames' and the crimson cauldron that Han Feng had left behind, it was likely that Xiao Yan's chances of success would reach quite a high level even when refining a tier 6 medicinal pill.

One after another, the medicinal ingredients fell into the medicinal cauldron. They were turned into powder or liquid in an instant as they were suspended within the cauldron. With the flow of time, one could see that the various medicinal liquids and powders that were suspended within the medicinal cauldron increased. Refining these medicinal liquids greatly exhausted one's Spiritual Strength. Among those of Xiao Yan's class, it was likely that only Xiao Yan was able to afford squandering such a great amount of it. If it was someone else, it was likely that such a person would not dare to mess around like this.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the various medicinal liquids and powders that were suspended within the medicinal cauldron. A moment later, the final medicinal ingredient was finally thrown into the medicinal cauldron by Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan's mind also gradually became solemn after he threw the final medicinal ingredient into the medicinal cauldron. In the past, Xiao Yan naturally needed to divide the refinement of these medicinal ingredients into many steps. However, he was currently able to throw all of them into the medicinal cauldron in one go and was also able to maintain different flame intensities to refine each and every one of these medicinal ingredients. This kind of achievement was something that could not be compared to the past.

Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength swarmed into the medicinal cauldron. The kind of high temperature environment did not hinder his Spiritual Strength. Instead, that warm feeling caused his Spiritual Strength to feel a comfort like a fish entering water.

Those medicinal liquids that were suspended within the medicinal cauldron were completely controlled by Xiao Yan after his Spiritual Strength swarmed into it. A moment later, Xiao Yan exhaled a breath and his hand seal changed abruptly!

A catalyst appeared to have been added into the originally warm dark-green flame within the medicinal cauldron after his hand seal changed. An extremely frightening temperature suddenly erupted. Those medicinal liquids began to swiftly evaporate under this frightening temperature!

The impurities that were contained within the liquids were completely refined and removed following the evaporation of the medicinal liquids.

“Coagulate!”

A low cry was emitted from Xiao Yan's mouth. Immediately, the dozens of different colored medicinal liquids and medicinal powders within the medicinal cauldron began to be dragged by something and swiftly merged together. They finally began to rotate wildly...

The fist-sized coagulated liquid body slowly shrank as it was burned by the high temperature of the surrounding dark-green flame... After two to three hours had passed, the fist-sized coagulated medicinal liquid was now only the size of a thumb. Its rotation began to gradually slow, and one could vaguely see the embryonic medicinal pill shape began to slowly

appear!

Xiao Yan sighed in relief when he saw the embryonic medicinal pill shape. Although the ‘Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill’ was a tier 6 medicinal pill, the requirements needed to refine it were not very high. The effect of this medicinal pill was far too unique. Only a small number of people required it. It was useless for most people to obtain it. If one were to discuss its value, a ‘Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill’ was not even comparable to a ‘Dou Spirit Pill’.

The temperature of the dark-green flame was gradually reduced. Finally, it turned into a cluster of fist-sized flame that was suspended under the embryonic pale-purple medicinal pill. The gradually reducing temperature slowly completed the final step of refining a medicinal pill: brewing a pill!

With the temperature slowly dissipating, the outer appearance of the purple-colored embryonic medicinal pill also turned round and sleek. Moreover, it gained a rich luster.

An unusual medicinal fragrance and an energy ripple suddenly surged out from the medicinal cauldron around an hour later. Only then did Xiao Yan slowly open his eyes. He immediately felt somewhat surprised to see that the energy ripple and purple-colored fragrance rising from the purple-colored medicinal pill were all contained within the crimson medicinal cauldron. They were unable to escape regardless of how much they knocked around.

“This medicinal cauldron is actually also able to hide the unnatural phenomenon that appears when a tier 6 medicinal pill is formed?” Xiao Yan was surprised as he observed the effect of the medicinal cauldron. He could not resist letting out an exclamation. It was a long time later before he withdrew the surprise within his heart. With a wave of his hand, the cover of the medicinal cauldron opened by itself, and a purple-colored medicinal pill, carrying a wisp of fragrance, flew out from the cauldron before eventually being grabbed by Xiao Yan’s hand. After which, he stuffed it within a medicinal bottle he had already prepared.

Xiao Yan laughed softly as he studied the purple-colored medicinal pill

with a gem-like luster. Only now was he able to actually fulfill the reward he had promised Hai Bodong back then...

However, being able to successfully refine the 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill' had already caused Xiao Yan to be quite happy. This was because being able to refine a tier 6 medicinal pill meant that he already possessed the ability of a tier 6 alchemist despite this 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill' being one that was ranked among the lowest of the tier 6 medicinal pills.

Xiao Yan suppressed this joy within his heart as his gaze once again turned to the other medicinal ingredients that had been laid out in front of him. He let out a bitter laugh. It seemed that he would need to accompany this medicinal cauldron for a long period of time after this...

# Chapter 655: Medicinal Pill Auction

One bottle after another of finished medicinal pill products were repeatedly delivered to Xiao Li's hand following the gradual increase in time Xiao Yan spent in retreat. On top of feeling a joy at such a rich source of pills, Xiao Li also ceased selling medicinal pills one at a time. After having muddled along within the 'Black-Corner Region' for two to three years, he was clearly aware that the perfect method to obtain the greatest value for medicinal pills was to auction them!

Currently, Feng City was already completely controlled in the hands of 'Xiao Gate'. Given their strength, it was already sufficient to manage a reputable auction that focused solely on the sale of medicinal pills. Hence, Xiao Li finally sent out the information of an auction being held through various channels after a few days of preparation.

Various large and small auctions would frequently appear within the 'Black-Corner Region'. However, an auction that focused solely on the sale of medicinal pills was quite rare. Moreover, Xiao Li had naturally leaked news of some high-tier medicinal pills that were to be auctioned when he spread the news of the auction. Hence, the auction that Feng City was about to hold attracted sufficient attention within a short two to three days.

Of course, the most important thing when holding an auction within a place like the 'Black-Corner Region' was an extremely great strength. Otherwise, some of the fellows whose greed had covered their reasoning might perform some extremely crazy actions when the auction began. An example was to snatch the item to be auctioned. Such a thing might be somewhat shocking in the outside world. However, it was only too common within the 'Black-Corner Region' where people had seen it occur many times.

If 'Xiao Gate' were to hold such an auction with its past strength, it would naturally be mocked by others. Where did a faction only near that of a first-tier faction get the qualification to hold such an event?

However, this kind of mockery completely disappeared after the Dark Sky Sect and two other large factions ended up publically announcing that the ruler of Feng City was 'Xiao Gate's' after leading their men and rushing fiercely into Feng City. From this declaration of theirs, many people were able to tell that they had clearly met with an extremely strong resistance during their joint attempt to charge into Feng City. That resistance was something that even they were extremely afraid of!

With things having developed to this point, the many large and small factions within the 'Black-Corner Region' had little choice but to once again begin to take this new faction, that had suddenly appeared, seriously. The combination of the three large factions was something that even the 'Black Alliance' back then would not dare to easily provoke. Despite this, they ended up suffering losses at the hands of the so-called 'Xiao Gate'. This caused many people's imaginations to run wild.

The people within the 'Black-Corner Region' were extremely aware of just what kind of characters the leaders of the three large factions possessed. It was not overboard to say that their tactics were vicious and their behaviors eccentric. However, ever since they had returned from Feng City, they had remained unusually silent. They did not release even the slightest information regarding 'Xiao Gate', and when they sent people to be stationed in Feng City a couple of days later, they did not choose any area that was close to the private mansion at the middle of the city.

All of these actions clearly indicated that the three large factions were worried, and even afraid of this so-called 'Xiao Gate'!

At this moment, anyone who naively thought that the so-called 'Xiao Gate' merely had a strength that was close to a first-tier faction possessing only an elite Dou Wang might really have a brain that was damaged...

Hence, everyone obediently shut their mouths when news that the 'Xiao Gate' was holding a medicinal pill auction spread in the 'Black-Corner Region'. No one dared to express any mockery. Moreover, not long later, the other factions felt lucky that they had remained silent after the three large factions announced that they would send helpers to help maintain order in Feng City. This 'Xiao Gate' really did seem to be hiding a

terrifying strength that caused the three large factions to be afraid!

Of course, regardless of the attitude the other factions held toward the 'Xiao Gate', at the very least, over half of the 'Black-Corner Region' knew that Feng City was holding a great medicinal pill auction because of Xiao Li's actions...

An increasing number of people began to rush over from all over the 'Black-Corner Region' as the auction approached. Almost everyone had a great interest for medicinal pills. Moreover, this kind of medicinal pill auction was something that was appearing in the 'Black-Corner Region' for the first time; therefore, it naturally attracted quite a number of people.

The crowd in Feng City had already reached a frightening number just one day before the auction. It even exceeded the peak period back when the 'Black Alliance' was still around. From this, one could see just how successful Xiao Li's idea of an auction which specialized in medicinal pills was.

Xiao Li had naturally informed Xiao Yan of a big matter like holding an auction. Xiao Yan also clearly understood that such an auction would require an expert of a certain level around. Otherwise, trouble would definitely appear. Hence, he had ceased his dull pill refining one day before the start of the auction and quietly discussed matters with Queen Medusa for a long time. Only then was he totally assured.

Time passed and the medicinal pill auction finally began amid the expectations of a countless number of people. On the day it opened, numerous black-clothed figures, who emitted a rich bloody scents from their bodies, stood around the auction grounds like statues, giving everyone a feeling of pressure and fear within their hearts.

Xiao Yan looked down at the torrent-like human flow from a tall ground where he could see the entirety of the spacious auction ground below and nodded slightly.

"Third brother, I have spent all my efforts and have finally found and ordered all the medicinal ingredients that you need. However, it requires quite a great amount of money in order to get the goods. If the auction

were to progress smoothly, not only will we be able to obtain all the medicinal ingredients, but our 'Xiao Gate' will also gain a large amount of money." Xiao Li by the side spoke with a smile as he looked at the lower ground with satisfaction.

"Aye." Xiao Yan sighed in relief upon hearing this. He smiled and nodded. There were indeed many capable people within the 'Black-Corner Region'. The medicinal ingredients he had requested were mostly unorthodox and rare. It was unexpected that all of them could really be purchased.

"However, there will also be some trouble today." Xiao Li suddenly knit his brows and whispered.

"What trouble?" Xiao Yan lifted his eyebrows and asked without a change in his expression or tone.

"The activity I have created this time around is too big, and it has attracted many factions from the 'Black-Corner Region' over. There were quite a number among these factions who were members of the 'Black Alliance' back then. It is even rumored that the Gold Silver Brothers will also attend." Xiao Li helplessly said.

"You are afraid that they will create trouble?" Xiao Yan spoke with a smile.

"Aye. Those fellows aren't ordinary people. Especially the Gold Silver Brothers. They may be afraid of the Jia Nan Academy, but they aren't the least bit afraid of us." Xiao Li nodded as he replied.

"Relax. It's only two old fellows who won't die. Second brother, you only need to ensure that the auction will progress until the end. Leave everything else to me."

"This... alright." Xiao Li hesitated a little when he heard this before he immediately nodded. He had a great confidence for Xiao Yan. Even that kind of incomparably fierce woman like Queen Medusa was suppressed by him, much less these fellows.

The incomparably spacious auction hall below was gradually filled by a

great number of people while the two of them were conversing. At a glance, the black masses of human heads appeared to be endless. The noisy buzzing and cursing merged together. From the looks of its momentum, it seemed as though it wanted to break through the ceiling.

Some of those well known important people within the 'Black-Corner Region' and the leaders of some factions were naturally arranged to be at the front of the auction with extremely good views. The leaders of these factions would occasionally whisper softly with one another. Their gazes were sweeping in all directions with questionable thoughts lingering in their hearts.

There were quite a number of important people who were clustered at the front row in the north-western side of the auction ground. The two people who were nearest to the front were surprisingly the Gold Silver Brothers whom Xiao Yan was extremely familiar with. Behind the two of them were some experts from the 'Black-Corner Region' who were quite well known in the 'Black-Corner Region'. Most of these people were members of the 'Black Alliance' back then. Hence, they naturally gathered together when they met.

At this moment, these people were repeatedly engaged in private conversations while the Gold Silver Brothers were resting with their eyes shut. No one knew what they were thinking in their hearts.

“Clang!”

A clear sound suddenly appeared amid the noise within the auction house. The noise within the auction house was gradually reduced after this gong sounded. Everyone's gaze also slowly gathered onto the auction stage...

Xiao Li's figure slowly walked out from backstage in front of everyone's line of sight. Finally, he stood on the stage without any fear and cupped his hands in all directions. A smile was revealed on his cold, stern face as he spoke with a clear voice, “I am Xiao Li, the person managing the affairs of 'Xiao Gate'. Today, we are holding this auction for the first time. Please be magnanimous if we slight anyone.”

All the gazes within the quiet place were locked onto Xiao Li's body. Being the new faction that had gained the limelight within the 'Black-Corner Region' recently, many people were quietly guessing just who had the ability to cause even the three large factions to be afraid of. Now that they heard these words, they were questioning if he was the leader of 'Xiao Gate'.

The silence continued for a moment before private conversations began to appear. There was no lack of experts among those who had come to participate in the auction. Hence, there were naturally people who could identify Xiao Li's strength at a glance. He was at best in the Dou Wang class. How could he suppress the three large factions?

The Gold Silver Brothers who had their eyes shut amid the private conversations also slowly opened them. Ridicule was revealed in their eyes as they glanced at Xiao Li on the stage. One of them laughed coldly, "Brat, let the true leader reveal himself. If you are really the leader of 'Xiao Gate', there is no longer a need to hold the auction today. Regardless of how one put it, Han Feng possessed quite a great reputation within the 'Black-Corner Region'. Although he died to Xiao Yan's hands, it is not up to a younger generation like you to occupy his city."

Since they were the strongest people currently in the 'Black-Corner Region', quite a number of people voiced their agreements after the words of the Gold Silver Brothers sounded. It was only too common to find people who would add insult to injury within the 'Black-Corner Region'.

Xiao Li's expression became slightly ugly as he observed the Gold Silver Brothers, who had cold smiles on their faces. He was about to speak a moment later when a faint laugh appeared and resounded across the entire auction hall.

"Ke ke, you two. Since Han Feng has died by my hands, what is wrong with me taking my reward?"

# Chapter 656: Deterrent

A black figure also slowly appeared on the auction stage as that laughter sounded in the auction hall.

The faces of the Gold Silver Brothers changed a little when that somewhat familiar laughter sounded. Their expressions immediately became ugly when their gazes shifted onto the human figure on the auction stage.

“Xiao Yan? You have killed the Black Alliance Chief Han Feng, yet you still dare to come to the ‘Black-Corner Region?’”

The cold cry that was emitted from the mouths of the Gold Silver Brothers immediately caused the entire auction house to become noisy. Numerous shocked gazes started at the black-robed, young man on the stage. This extremely young fellow was actually the Xiao Yan who had killed Medicinal Emperor Han Feng?

Although Xiao Yan’s reputation had spread across the entire ‘Black-Corner Region’, many people were still unfamiliar with his appearance. Hence, they felt disbelief when they saw that this strong person, who was rumored to be able to kill Han Feng, was actually this young.

Xiao Yan’s gaze swept toward the ugly expressions of the Gold Silver Brothers as he laughed softly, “Both of your words are really funny. There are countless number of people who are killed in the ‘Black-Corner Region’ everyday. Don’t tell me that one must be expelled after killing someone? It is only too common for injuries and death when two people fight.”

“A glib tongue. Feng City is the headquarters of the ‘Black Alliance’. Although Han Feng was already killed, we members of the ‘Black Alliance’ have the right to take it back. However, looking at your intentions now, you are actually thinking of occupying this city for yourself? Aren’t you slighting all of us?” The Gold Silver Brothers looked at one another before they spoke in a dark and sinister manner.

“Han Feng has already died, and the ‘Black Alliance’ is already dissolved.

The winner becomes king while the loser becomes the bandit. Being the victor, I have the right to take everything within this city. If the two of you aren't satisfied, you can come and snatch it from me." Xiao Yan raised his eyes. His gradually colder voice did not give the Gold Silver Brothers any face. The provocation that existed within his words was not hidden in any way.

A commotion suddenly rose within the entire place after these somewhat wild and arrogant words of Xiao Yan sounded. There were not many people within this entire 'Black-Corner Region' who dared to speak to the Gold Silver Brothers with such a tone.

The faces of the Gold Silver Brothers similarly turned green at this provocation of Xiao Yan. A moment later, a somewhat sharp voice sounded in the auction ground, "A brat who doesn't know the immensity of the heavens and earth. Do you really think that you can dominate the 'Black-Corner Region' by defeating Han Feng? Back then, if Su Qian, that old fellow who won't die, did not protect you, I would have killed you!"

The private conversations within the auction hall was immediately reduced greatly when everyone saw the gold-silver brothers becoming furious. Numerous gloating gazes were looking at Xiao Yan on the stage. The people in the 'Black-Corner Region' were clearly aware of the tactics of the gold-silver brothers. The thing that these two old fellows hated the most was when people did not give them face in public. Now that Xiao Yan had embarrassed them in front of so many people, it seemed that it was going to be somewhat difficult for the auction to progress successfully today.

"It is not difficult to let the both of you to follow Han Feng's path if the two of you are separated." Xiao Yan spoke faintly. Although these two old fellows could contend with a strong Dou Zong if they joined hands, they only had the strength of someone at the peak of the Dou Huang class if they were separated. It was not impossible for Xiao Yan to kill someone at the peak of the Dou Huang class given his current strength.

"What naive words." The Gold Silver Brothers merely scoffed at these words of Xiao Yan. They coldly laughed, "There is no fairness in the

‘Black-Corner Region. Only the difference between victory and defeat exists. We have always joined hands to fight during all these years, regardless of whether the other party is strong or weak. Separate? That is something that only an idiot would do. However, since you, a little brat, have mentioned this today, we shall help take revenge for Han Feng today. Otherwise, he might not be able to rest in peace.”

Two powerful auras surged explosively from the Gold Silver Brothers after their voices sounded. After which, their auras merged and covered the entire auction ground!

“Alright, Gold Silver Brothers, kill this little brat. We will then join hands to completely finish off the entire ‘Xiao Gate’! Feng City cannot land in the hands of these fellows!” The people behind the Gold Silver brothers, who were once members of the ‘Black Alliance,’ began to immediately cry out with excited faces when they saw the former’s actions. They similarly coveted Feng City, and naturally did not wish for such a big cake to land in Xiao Yan’s hands.

The Gold Silver Brothers also gave a dark, solemn smile upon hearing everyone’s support. The aura that surged out from their bodies also gradually became stronger...

The faces of most people within the auction hall became flushed red while being suppressed by the powerful aura of the Gold Silver Brothers. Only a small number of experts were able to sit unaffected without any change in their expression amid this pressuring aura.

Xiao Yan’s eyes calmly watched the Gold Silver Brothers who had unleashed a powerful aura. Behind him, Xiao Li’s face was gloomy as he waved his hand. Numerous black figures sprang out from the corridor above the auction hall. The flickering cold glowing bows were pointed at those below. Arrows would rain down on the both of them upon order.

“These two old fellows might well be unlucky this time around.” The leaders of the Dark Sky Sect, Luo Sha Gate, and Wild Lion Gang, who were seated at a corner of the auction hall, watched the Gold Silver Brothers as they emitted a pressuring aura. They exchanged looks with one another

before letting out gloating cold laughter. Other people might be unaware but they clearly knew that there was a true elite Dou Zong within this Feng City. Moreover, this elite Dou Zong clearly had all sorts of connections with Xiao Yan. These fellows were going to suffer if they wanted to use their large numbers to behave atrociously in this place.

Xiao Yan sensed the increasingly powerful aura within the auction hall. A moment later, he slowly extended his fair hands from under his sleeves in front of a countless number of gazes. His ten fingers intersected with one another as his faint voice resounded across the entire hall.

“Today is the day that my ‘Xiao Gate’ is holding an auction. Anyone who behaves atrociously in this place will be viewed as an enemy. It is no different for you two old fellows.”

“Hee hee, what an arrogant tone. Today, Su Qian and the many experts from the Inner Academy aren’t around. Do you think you have the right to speak to us in this manner?” The Gold Silver Brothers ended up laughing from extreme anger upon hearing Xiao Yan’s the endlessly arrogant tone.

Xiao Yan glanced at the two of them, but did not speak. He slowly raised his hand and gently waved it. A gentle voice was emitted from his mouth, “Sorry to trouble you, but please have these two fellows become quiet.”

Xiao Yan’s voice had just sounded when the space beside him became distorted. Immediately, a bewitching and lovely figure filled with allure slowly surfaced in front of all the gazes in a ghost-like manner.

The bewitching beauty who had suddenly appeared caused some of the gazes in the entire hall to immediately shrink. Some of those with weak mental strength had faces which had turned flushed red and their throats rolled. All sorts of ugly behavior appeared under the bewitching face, which possessed far too great an allure to men.

The cold smiling faces of the Gold Silver Brothers slowly stiffened the moment Medusa appeared. They had an extremely deep impression of this woman, who was so beautiful that she seemed like an evil demon. Back then, Han Feng was kicked to death by this cold-blooded woman. Moreover, the thing that caused their hearts to sink was that this woman

was a true elite Dou Zong!

“Dammit. Isn’t this woman chasing after Xiao Yan? Why would she appear in this place to help him?” The Gold Silver Brothers’ green faces revealed a slight paleness. The powerful aura that covered the entire hall in an overbearing manner quietly weakened under Medusa’s faint gaze. A moment later, it became just like a mouse that had seen a cat as it completely shrank back into their bodies.

Although the Gold Silver Brothers were said to be able to fight with an elite Dou Zong after joining hands, they could merely contend with some of those Dou Zong at the entry level. If they met with an expert like Su Qian, they would only be able to delay the other party for a period of time before they swiftly fell into a disadvantage. The Gold Silver brothers might not be very afraid of Su Qian, but they possessed a kind of fear that came from within their hearts in the face of this bewitching demon-like beauty. This kind of terror came from nowhere, but it faintly warned them that if they were to truly fight with this bewitching beauty, they would have a ninety-percent chance of becoming a dead soul under her palm.

The sudden, strange change in the Gold Silver Brothers also stirred the attention of quite a number of people. Everyone was stunned. There were immediately some smart people who had sensed something. Hence, numerous obscure gazes turned to the bewitching beauty beside Xiao Yan. A sudden understanding surged and appeared within their hearts. Just what kind of expert was this woman? She was actually able to cause even the Gold Silver Brothers to be afraid?

Xiao Yan half-smiled as he watched the Gold Silver Brothers’ somewhat stiff faces. He then asked, “You two, do you think that our ‘Xiao Gate’ has the qualification to occupy ‘Feng City’?”

“Gold Elder, Silver Elder, Feng City is our ‘Black Alliance’ headquarters. It must not land in the hands of these fellows. As long as the two of you give the order, our troops in Feng City will immediately act. I guarantee that we will finish off all of the strength of ‘Xiao Gate’ within half a day.” A fellow behind the Gold Silver Brothers, who did not recognize Medusa, immediately spoke when he heard Xiao Yan’s extremely provocative

words.

According to his thoughts, the Gold Silver Elders would definitely not do nothing in the face of such provocation by Xiao Yan given their characters. At that time, their factions would add fuel to the fire and would definitely completely eliminate 'Xiao Gate' today.

However, this person did not see the pitying gazes that some leaders of other factions beside him threw toward him as he spoke. Some of those people even quietly shifted their seats.

The shriveled faces of the Gold Silver brothers were strained as they twitched a couple of times when they heard such words at such a moment. They seemed to be able to feel a pair of cold eyes shooting down at them from the stage become increasingly colder.

The Gold Silver Brothers suddenly turned around in the face of that pair of cold and merciless eyes. They immediately waved their sleeves toward the face of that reckless fellow from earlier in front of a countless of stunned gazes. The powerful force sent the latter flying. He heavily smashed down the corridor over a dozen of meters away while letting out a miserable wail.

"You eyeless fool. Han Feng died in the hands of chief Xiao. He naturally has the right to take over this city. Since when is it up to you to grumble and distort things?"

The large auction hall was completely silent. Everyone revealed stunned face as they watched the Gold Silver Brothers, who had suddenly scolded the man in a righteous manner. They felt a comical feeling in their hearts. These two old fellows were really shameless...

Xiao Yan let out a faint smile as he watched the farce. He knew that after today, the reputation of 'Xiao Gate' would completely resound throughout the 'Black-Corner Region'...

# Chapter 657: The End of the Auction

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth curled slightly as he observed the Gold Silver Brothers wave their sleeves and send someone flying. The tactics of these two old fellows were indeed shameless. However, since the other party had already softened their stance, he was too lazy to argue with them in this kind of occasion. The auction was the most important matter today. Using this matter, he had already perfectly achieved the deterrent effect he wanted. After this, it was likely that there wouldn't be any blind fools who came and sought trouble.

"Since the two of you don't have any objections to our 'Xiao Gate' taking charge of Feng City, can you two please take your seats. The auction is about to begin." Xiao Yan smiled and spoke.

The face of the Gold Silver Brothers twitched a little upon hearing Xiao Yan's words. They had thrown away their face today. However, there was no other choice... they sighed in their hearts. The two of them looked at the cold, ice-like Medusa beside Xiao Yan fearfully. Only then did they smile and sit in their seats.

"Everyone, what happened earlier is but a farce. Please don't blame us. The main event for today, the medicinal pill auction, will happen next." Xiao Yan's gaze shifted away from the Gold Silver brothers as he smiled at the countless number of people in the auction hall and laughed.

The area below the stage was briefly silent after Xiao Yan's words sounded. Waves of agreement began to immediately appear. After the scene earlier, even a stupid person knew that the strength that this 'Xiao Gate' possessed was something that far exceeded their expectations. Hence, no one dared to open their mouths to provoke them. Instead, various boot-licking and agreeing voices began to repeatedly appear.

There were similarly quite a number of people in the 'Black-Corner Region' who followed the direction the wind blew.

Amid the agreement and boot-licking that sounded from all directions, Xiao Yan turned his head to Xiao Li, who had also sighed in relief, and

spoke smile, "I shall hand the matters after this to second brother. The auction will likely be able to progress smoothly today."

Xiao Li smiled and nodded. Even the Gold Silver brothers were snubbed despite their strength. Who else would possess the courage to create trouble?

Xiao Yan finally opened his stride and walked toward the backstage after seeing Xiao Li nod his head. Medusa followed close behind him like a shadow before disappearing in front of a countless number of gazes...

Xiao Li sent Xiao Yan and Medusa off with his eyes. After which, he smiled and waved his hand. A couple of female servants carrying silver trays came onto the stage in sections. The tiny jade bottles on the silver plates were extremely eye-catching.

"Ke ke, next, the first medicinal pill in our auction..."

Xiao Yan sat quietly in the living room backstage. He held a warm teacup and occasionally sipped from it. From this place, he could vaguely hear the fiery auction that was transmitted from the auction ground. It seemed like those medicinal pills had obtained quite a good effect.

"Thank you very much for this." Xiao Yan held the teacup as he suddenly turned around and softly spoke to the cold-faced Medusa.

Medusa still retained her cold pretty face in the face of Xiao Yan's thanks. Her delicate waist revealed a graceful arc that was filled with allure under her dress, causing one to involuntarily have an impulse to hug and play with it. At this moment, Medusa's emotions were extremely chaotic. According to her character she should have ignored him when Xiao Yan asked her for a little help. However, when she saw the earnestness and hope on the other party's young face, a kind of unusual emotion quietly seeped out from deep within her spirit, causing her to swallow the rejection that had reached her mouth.

Although she knew that this kind of unusual emotion was definitely due to her merger with the spirit of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python', this kind of creeping influence also caused her to be quite frustrated. On one hand, she really wanted to slap and kill this fellow who actually dared to violate

her. On the other hand, the influence deep within her spirit created an involuntarily desire to linger beside this fellow. These two conflicting emotions caused Queen Medusa, who was renowned for killing decisively, to struggle and hesitate repeatedly.

“Don’t continue to give a cold face. I know that the reason you have agreed to my request is partly because of the influence of the spirit of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’. Therefore, I will not feel some fond hope and think that you really have some special emotion toward me.” Xiao Yan could not help but shake his head and speak with a bitter smile when he saw Medusa’s ice-cold face.

Medusa lifted her eyebrows, but continued to remain silent.

Xiao Yan placed his teacup gently on the table and rubbed his head. He immediately spoke somewhat awkwardly, “Actually, there is not much grudge and hatred between us, right? Back then, in the underground... cough, I was really unable to control myself. All the trouble was caused by that damn ‘Fallen Heart Flame’.”

“Back then, if you had not brought the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ that I had evolved into away after I successfully evolved, I would naturally not have any involvement with you. Moreover, if I was given sufficient time, I would have been able to merge with the spirit of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ sooner or later. It was originally born because of my evolution. Speaking from a certain point of view, the both of us are one.” Medusa’s eyebrows immediately became vertical when she heard that Xiao Yan actually wanted to push aside all his responsibilities. She clenched her silver teeth and spoke, “If you did not bring the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ with you, all of these troublesome matters would not exist now. I would also not be brought underground by you... now you still dare to tell me that we don’t have much of a grudge with one another?”

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly once again. He knocked his somewhat painful head and said, “Back then, I was unaware that the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ is something that you had transformed into. Moreover, you had also said that the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ and you are one. Did I neglect that little fellow by even a little?”

“You keep saying that I treated that little fellow like a pet as I reared it. Therefore, it caused you as a Queen, to lose face. However, the heavens can witness that I usually provided for it like it was my little ancestor. I even let it drink the ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ like water. It is something that even I was reluctant to consume. Is this not good treatment?” Xiao Yan loudly professed his own innocence.

Medusa was startled when she heard this kind of retort by Xiao Yan that suggested he had been greatly wronged. She was unaware of whether Xiao Yan was providing for the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ like a little ancestor in his heart. However, he did indeed frequently give the precious ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ to the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ to consume. This was something that she was clearly aware of.

Queen Medusa cold and indifferent face began to melt a little as this thought lingered in her heart. However, before Xiao Yan could rejoice in his heart after discovering this scene, she appeared to have suddenly recalled something as her face once again became cold. She coldly spoke, “Even if I can stop caring about that matter, you are unable to find excuses for the shameless thing that you did to me while I was still in a weak state. According to the rules of our Snake-People race, if our body is violated when we are unwilling, we must take the human head of the one who violated us back. After which, we must throw it into the ‘Holy Pond’ of our clan and allow it to corrode away!”

Xiao Yan’s face stiffened when he heard this. He suddenly sensed that his neck had become chilly. This woman... did she really plan to bring his head back to settle this?

The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth twitched. He could not resist the impulse to cry out his innocence. When he was underground, his reasoning was completely controlled by the desire that was formed from the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. Hence, he was merely able to recall the matter after everything had happened. Moreover, he did not even have the slightly feeling in that kind of situation... it should be known that it was similarly the first time for him...

“You must refine the ‘Soul Recovery Pill’ once our agreement is over. At

that time, I will settle these grudges myself.” Medusa completely ignored Xiao Yan’s stiffened face as she spoke with a cold smile.

“Moreover, you can forget about trying to delay the matter. The moment the one year agreement arrives, your ending will similarly not be any good if I am unable to see the medicinal pill!” Medusa’s body shook once her words sounded. After which, she slowly disappeared from the chair.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head as he looked at Medusa’s disappearing figure. It was indeed not easy to hoodwink this woman. From the looks of it, he could only take things slow. Fortunately, there was still quite a bit of time until the agreement was over. He could still try to think of ways to change the woman feelings toward him for the better.

“What a headache...”

Xiao Yan’s finger rubbed his temples. A moment later, Xiao Yan, who was unable to think of any solution, could only raise his head and wail.

The auction continued for nearly an entire day before it ended perfectly just as the sky gradually turned dark.

The gains from this auction might be something that Xiao Li and Xiao Yan had anticipated, but they still felt joy when they heard their subordinate report the profits. With this amount of money, not only was Xiao Yan able to obtain all those necessary medicinal ingredients he needed, but the excess would also allow ‘Xiao Gate’ to widely gather experts.

Of course, since Xiao Yan still required the strength of the three large factions, who had put in some effort for the auction this time around, Xiao Yan did not act stingily. Instead, he took out quite a large sum of money from his revenue and divided it equally among the three factions. When he saw their stunned expressions, Xiao Yan clearly knew in his heart that the results of gifting this amount of money were achieved. It was impossible to simply rely on a big stick if one wanted others to submit.

Hence, the successful auction this time around had not only allowed the ‘Xiao Gate’ to make a great profit, but had also allowed Feng City, which had become a little bleak following the dissolution of the ‘Black Alliance,’

to once again return to its popularity at its peak. Moreover, it even exceeded this peak by a little. This point somewhat exceeded Xiao Yan's and Xiao Li's expectations.

Xiao Li sent out his men to purchase all those expensive medicinal ingredients he had ordered from all over the place at the fastest possible speed the day after the end of the auction.

The joy on Xiao Yan's face was not the least bit hidden when he received the medicinal ingredients, which had been stored in good condition, from Xiao Li's hands. He understood that with these medicinal ingredients, the day Yao Lao would reawaken was not that far away...

Once Yao Lao awakened, the day he returned to the Jia Ma Empire was similarly not far away...

All the grudges would end at that time!

# Chapter 658: Restoration Medicinal Liquid

There was hardly any trace of a person in the vast, deep mountains. The main theme was the endless lush, green mountains. Occasionally, the roar of a magical beast would resound across the mountain forest, frightening away countless numbers of resting birds.

There was a huge rock that protruded from the mountain wall in the middle of a steep cliff. The huge rock was frequently battered by the rain and wind. Therefore, its surface was extremely smooth. There was even a layer of luster faintly present on it. However, a black-robed, young man was currently standing at that spot. His legs were like the roots of an old tree that slowly gripped the enormous rock, causing his body to stand on it without moving a little.

The black-robed, young man was naturally Xiao Yan since he had left Feng City. There was likely going to be large activity when he woke Yao Lao this time around. Hence, he would naturally be unable to do this in a crowded place like Feng City. Hence, after Xiao Yan informed Xiao Li, he and Medusa once again entered the deep mountains. In the endless, deep mountains, the activity, regardless of how massive it was, would completely disappear between the cover of the many mountains.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept to the left and right of this precipitous mountain peak. The quiet space was such that one even had difficulty hearing the chirping of the birds. A moment later, he nodded his head with satisfaction and raised it to the top of the cliff and cried out loud.

"Cai Lin, I will have to trouble you. Don't let anything disturb me."

Laughter was transmitted up. One could faintly see a graceful figure standing on top of the mountain cliff. However, she appeared to act as though she did not hear Xiao Yan's cry and was too lazy to even give a reply.

Xiao Yan was long used to this attitude of Medusa. Hence, he did not display any expression. He knew that this woman might ignore him verbally, but she would usually perform a task she had promised him to

the point that one could not pick on it. Xiao Yan was able to completely rest assured with her protecting him by the side.

Xiao Yan crossed his legs and sat on the smooth huge rock. He slowly shut his eyes as he forced his breathing and heart to enter into a calm, slow rhythm. Only then did he flick his finger. A crimson-colored medicinal cauldron once again fell and smashed heavily on the enormous rock, causing it to tremble a couple of times.

Xiao Yan's expression gradually turned solemn as he studied the crimson-colored medicinal cauldron. The Serene Sea Storage Ring on his finger flickered slightly. Immediately, medicinal ingredients came flashing out of it. Finally, they appeared to experience a certain drag force as they became suspended around Xiao Yan.

The appearance of these medicinal ingredients were all somewhat strange. However the unusual scent they faintly emitted caused a person's spirit to gain a comfortable feeling similar to that of being soaked in a hot spring.

The smile on Xiao Yan's face grew richer as he sniffed the unusual medicinal fragrances. All of these medicinal ingredients possessed good effects for one's Spiritual Strength.

Xiao Yan flicked his finger gently, and a wisp of Glazed Lotus Heart Flame flashed and appeared. Finally, it played just like a fire spirit as it danced around Xiao Yan's finger in an agile manner.

"Go." With a gentle cry, the wisp of Glazed Lotus Heart Flame shot out and entered the medicinal cauldron through the fire outlet. The instant it entered the medicinal cauldron, it suddenly expanded and turned into a fierce flame that expanded.

The flame writhed within the medicinal cauldron. A moment later, Xiao Yan's long finger gently flicked toward a medicinal ingredient that was suspended in front of him. In a skillful manner, it shot into the medicinal cauldron.

The medicinal ingredient was wrapped by the dark-green flame the moment it was shot into the medicinal cauldron. However, the terrifyingly

high temperature did not immediately destroy it in an avaricious manner. Instead, that medicinal ingredient emitted a white-jade-like faint glow while it was being burned, almost like it was attempting to isolate the temperature of the flame.

Xiao Yan was not overly surprised that this medicinal ingredient possessed the ability to retaliate the burning of the flame. He clearly understood that these kinds of rare medicinal ingredients that could recover Spiritual injuries were mostly able to rely on a kind of instinctive ability to block harm from the outside.

For example this medicinal ingredient named 'Snow Jade Bone Ginseng' that was thrown into the medicinal cauldron might be named a ginseng, but its shape was similar to that of a white, jade-like bone. This kind of bone ginseng had a toughness that was no weaker than steel. It possessed an extremely strong resistance to fire. If one wanted to use an ordinary flame to refine it, one might not obtain much results even after doing it for half a year or even a year.

Hence, Xiao Yan was not surprised that it could resist the grilling of the Glazed Lotus Heart Flame. One must not possess an anxious heart when refining such a medicinal ingredient. Everything must be in a progressive cycle. This was the correct path...

Xiao Yan watched the fierce flame within the medicinal cauldron. A moment later, he slowly shut his eyes. He knew that despite the Glazed Lotus Heart Flame strength, attempting to refine this 'Snow Jade Bone Ginseng' would at least require a couple of days...

Although Xiao Yan had already anticipated the fire resistance of the 'Snow Jade Bone Ginseng', he could not help but feel stunned when he saw that the bone ginseng only began to melt on the third day. Medicinal ingredients that were able to treat spirits were indeed different from ordinary medicinal ingredients. Could a medicinal ingredient with such a hardness still be considered a medicinal ingredient?

Xiao Yan calmed his heart and slowly refined it. Only on the fifth day did that incomparably hard 'Snow Jade Bone Ginseng' completely melt into a

glob of snow-white viscous liquid.

Xiao Yan moved that snow-white viscous liquid to a spot in the medicinal cauldron with a lower temperature to grill it with a slow flame. He subsequently threw another medicinal ingredient that was similarly difficult to refine into the medicinal cauldron. He once again began the tedious refinement...

There was no concept of time in the mountains. Time quietly flew past one's fingers like flowing water. The suspended medicinal ingredients in front of him were gradually refined into various colored medicinal liquids within the medicinal cauldron one after another...

All the medicinal ingredients were finally completely refined around one month after Xiao Yan entered the deep mountains. After which, he spent another seven days in order to merge all of these medicinal liquids together.

.....

Xiao Yan watched the cluster of viscous liquid that was emitting a faint multicolored luster within the medicinal cauldron from the cliff. He finally sighed in relief as though he had released a heavy burden. Although he was not refining a medicinal pill this time around, it was the longest time that Xiao Yan had spent in front of a medicinal cauldron.

His body had sat in front of the medicinal cauldron without moving for over a month. He repeatedly maneuvered Dou Qi to supplement the flame within the medicinal cauldron so that there was an adequate amount of it. If Xiao Yan had not already advanced to the Dou Wang class and his 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method had not evolved to the Di Class Low Level, this kind of high burden squandering would likely result in him falling from this enormous rock all the way to the bottom of the cliff due to the exhaustion of Dou Qi regardless of how strong his character was.

"I have finally completed it..."

Xiao Yan's sleeves wiped off the perspiration on his forehead. His mouth parted to reveal a white set of teeth. This one month test of his endurance, like a worker maintaining a fire, had benefited him quite greatly. Even

without mentioning the successful merger of the medicinal liquid, Xiao Yan could sense that through this one month of burning, he was more practiced in his control over the Glazed Lotus Heart Flame, which was the merger of the two kinds of 'Heavenly Flames' within his body, when compared to before...

Although these kinds of pill refinement steps were tedious and exhausted one's Spiritual Strength, they had an extremely great benefit toward training one's control over a flame.

Xiao Yan rested for over ten minutes after completing the medicinal liquid merger. Only after that did he once again brace his attention before turning his gaze toward the ancient looking dark-black ring. He hesitated for a moment before slowly removing it.

Xiao Yan held the ring gently in his hand. A moment later, he suddenly clenched his teeth and tossed it with his hand. The dark-black ring was thrown into the fiery fire within the medicinal cauldron in a skillful manner!

The dark-green flame hurriedly swarmed forward when the dark-black ring entered the medicinal cauldron. However, an invisible strength surged out automatically from the ring just as these flames were about to approach the ring. After which, this strength isolated the ring from the flame.

"Automated self defence? Looks like teacher's ring is also not an ordinary object." Xiao Yan was startled when he saw the reaction of the ring. He immediately smiled. With a flick of his finger, that colorful viscous liquid tumbled about, and ended up wrapping the around dark-black ring.

That dark-black ring did not resist this medicinal liquid, which possessed quite the spiritual healing ability. Hence, it allowed the liquid to drag and wrap around itself.

Xiao Yan smiled slightly when he saw that he had successfully wrapped the dark-black ring in the colorful liquid. He immediately changed his hand seal, and the feeble dark-green flame within the medicinal cauldron

appeared to have broken out in excitement as it emitted a 'chi' sound and surged forward, sweeping the cluster of colorful liquid into it. That frighteningly high temperature still caused the surrounding air to gradually become distorted despite having the isolating effect of the dark-red medicinal cauldron.

Under Xiao Yan's control, the colorful liquid did not pose much resistance to the dark-green flame. Its vicious surface began to gradually form some air bubbles amid the frighteningly high temperature. An invisible vapor would be suppressed and pass through the medicinal liquid when an air bubble burst occasionally. Finally, it would quietly merge into the dark-black ring!

Time slowly flowed by as the cluster of colorful liquid, which was originally the size of a palm, gradually shrank. Clearly, the medicinal effect of healing one's spirit had already been completely vaporized into the ring under the suppression of the surrounding high temperature, healing the spirit that was in a slumber within it...

The medicinal liquid grew increasingly thinner. Under Xiao Yan's joyful gaze, a layer of faint glow that represented life gradually surged onto the surface of the dark-black ring...

"Teacher, you have been in a slumber for two years. It's time to wake up..."

# Chapter 659: Yao Lao Awakens!

The mountain forest was lush, green. The peaks of the mountains pierced into the clouds just like a blade, appearing to be majestic and spectacular.

An enormous rock was extended out on a steep wall somewhere within the mountain range. A black-robed, young man was seated cross-legged on it with his eyes tightly shut. An enormous crimson medicinal caudron was placed in front of him. A dark-green flame fiercely rose and fell within the medicinal cauldron. If one were to look carefully, one could faintly see that there was actually a cluster of colorful liquid slowly wiggling within the flame.

The surface of the colorful liquid repeatedly emitted tiny bubbles while it was grilled under the flame. Each time a bubble burst apart, the size of the cluster of liquid would shrink slightly.

Of course, this kind of shrinking was extremely slight. It was to the point that one would have a hard time discovering that the liquid was gradually shrinking unless one observed it carefully. However, as this little by little accumulation lasted for a period of time, the shrinking was no longer in miniscule amounts.

With the colorful medicinal liquid becoming increasingly thinner, it faintly revealed a slight black-colored thing that it was wrapping over. At a careful glance, there was actually a dark-black ancient-looking ring within the medicinal liquid!

Compared to before, this dark-black ring undoubtedly had an extra refined glow hidden within it at this moment. The color on the surface had become deeper and darker. When the glow on the surface of this ring flickered occasionally, one could discover that the size of the liquid had shrunk a little. Clearly, the pure medicinal strength within the medicinal liquid was gradually being absorbed by the spirit that was slumbering within the ring.

Awakening Yao Lao's sleeping spirit was an extremely troublesome and

slow task. Xiao Yan had already prepared for this. Hence, Xiao Yan was not overly anxious or uneasy that the ring still had no reaction after a month had passed. He would occasionally open his eyes and stare at the ring within the medicinal liquid. A long while later, he would let out a soft sigh before he calmed himself and continued the refinement.

The quiet mountain range did not possess the liveliness of the outside world. Some of the Magical Beasts that occasionally passed by this place would flee in a miserable state because of the frightening pressure that was faintly emitted from the mountain top. Hence, the surroundings of this mountain peak were exceptionally quiet.

Time quietly flew by in silence. Without realizing it, two months had flown by since Xiao Yan had entered the deep mountains. Xiao Yan had guarded the medicinal cauldron by his side for most of these two months. He would only occasionally leave for a short period of time.

With the flow of time and the unceasing burning of the Glazed Lotus Heart Flame, the cluster of the colorful palm-sized medical liquid was now only the size of a thumb. It was coincidentally just able to completely wrap the dark-black ring within it. Moreover, its luster was the difference between Heaven and Earth when compared to before. Clearly, most of the medicinal strength within the medicinal liquid had been forced into the ring under the burning flame...

Medusa was seated cross-legged on a rock at the top of the mountain. Her tightly shut long eyes were slowly opened as she glanced indifferently at Xiao Yan who was on the steep wall of the mountain. Her sleek, red lips moved a little as a cold laugh softly sounded, "It has already been two months. You should have reached your limit. If you were to continue to struggle on, it is likely that someone else will have to come and rescue you."

Although Xiao Yan was some distance away, Medusa's cold laughter still managed to be clearly transmitted into the ear of the somewhat pale-faced young man below.

Xiao Yan also slowly opened his eyes when he heard the voice floating

by the side of his ear. The Dou Qi within his body surged as he once again maneuvered a wisp of dark-green flame and shot it out from his finger. The flame was finally poured into the medicinal cauldron. Only after doing all of this did he raise his head and asked a question with a smile toward the mountain peak, "Why? Are you worried about me?"

"I was worried that I won't be able to obtain the 'Soul Recovery Pill' if you were to die!" The corner of Medusa's lips curled as she spoke coldly.

"Ke ke, you can rest assured that I am still able to continue enduring this. Your medicinal pill will also definitely reach your hands." Xiao Yan's somewhat pale-white face was pulled into a smile. He had repeatedly exhausted his Dou Qi to activate the Glazed Lotus Heart Flame and use his Spiritual Strength to perfectly control the flame for two months. Xiao Yan might be able to endure such an exhaustion for a month. However, if time were to drag on, fatigue would gradually appear. Such a degree of squandering was something that even an expert from the Dou Huang class could not afford, much less Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan did not continue to split his attention after speaking. He continued to place all of his attention into the medicinal cauldron in front of him.

"Stubborn fellow!"

Medusa knit her eyebrows as she watched Xiao Yan focusing his attention on controlling the flame once again. She immediately muttered softly to herself, "What does it have to do with me if he dies? I actually spoke such words to him?"

Medusa shook her head in confusion. This totally did not match her character. Although she said this with her mouth, her gaze would occasionally glance below. Her manner appeared as though she was really worried that Xiao Yan would fall head first down the cliff due to his exhaustion.

Time flew by. When the colorful medicinal liquid that wrapped around the dark-black ring was only a thin layer, Xiao Yan's body, which was seated firmly on the huge rock, began to tremble a little. The dark-green

flame within the medicinal cauldron also began to flash in a volatile manner. Clearly, Xiao Yan's strength was about to be completely exhausted after such a long period of refinement.

Medusa once again knit her brows tightly when she saw Xiao Yan's slightly swaying body. This fellow was really reckless. Although she quietly scolded in her heart a faint seven-colored energy began to gradually surge on the surface of her body.

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth tightly as he forcefully endured the waves of fatigue and the giddy feeling that was transmitted from his head. His eyes stared intently at the dark-black ring within the flame as he went all out to drain the Dou Qi hidden within every part of his body. He had a premonition that the time for Yao Lao to reawaken was not far away!

The Dou Qi remaining within his body swarmed out at an increasingly slower pace as he repeatedly squeezed it out. In the end, it even began to become intermittent, a sign of exhaustion. Moreover, Xiao Yan's mind was also completely replaced by fatigue and giddiness. His sight retained traces of blurriness as the angles his body swayed gradually became bigger.

"Seeking your own death!"

Medusa grit her silver teeth, and softly scolded when she saw the swaying Xiao Yan who might fall off the cliff at anytime. Her body moved forward a little. From her manner, it seemed that she was prepared to act and rescue this stubborn little fellow.

Xiao Yan's vision became increasingly blurry. He clearly understood in his heart that he had reached his limit. However, giving up at such a moment...

Xiao Yan's teeth bit his tongue. The intense pain braced Xiao Yan's mind a little. He immediately crazily circulated the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method route, and the last wave of Dou Qi that was hidden deep within his body was completely squeezed out by him. It crazily transversed his body before pouring into the medicinal cauldron.

Xiao Yan's vision finally turned from blurry to complete darkness when

the Dou Qi surged out from his finger. His head leaned forward and he was finally unable to maintain his body's stability. His body leaned sideways and became like a wooden log as it rolled down from the smooth, huge rock. Finally, he fell head first toward the edge of the cliff, which was covered with clouds and fog.

“Dammit!”

Medusa could not resist cursing when she saw that Xiao Yan had finally fallen head first from the cliff. Her lovely body moved forward and was about to act to rescue him. However, her body had just gotten up when her face became volatile, “Why should I rescue him? This kind of person deserves to die!”

During the time Medusa was struggling within her heart, Xiao Yan's falling speed became faster and faster. From the looks of the situation, it was likely that Xiao Yan would unluckily become a pile of minced meat if there were any protruding huge rocks hidden in the fog.

Medusa's eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan who had fallen into the lingering clouds. An instant later, she finally clenched her silver teeth abruptly. Her body shook and she turned into a seven-colored flowing light that rushed down the mountain peak in a lightning-like manner, appearing above Xiao Yan within a few flashes.

The colorful layer of medicinal liquid on the surface of the dark-black ring within the crimson medicinal cauldron resting on the huge rock finally merged into it just as Medusa made a move. The ring suddenly shook intensely and an invisible ripple spread out in a wave-like manner. It knocked on the internal wall of the medicinal cauldron and emitted a clear gong-like sound.

The invisible ripple spread in an increasingly faster and fiercer manner. In merely a couple of blinks, that intense sonic wave was emitted from the medicinal cauldron before finally turning into loud thunder that resounded across the mountain range. Wild wind blew wherever the sonic wave spread, and a green-colored sea wave was formed above the sea of trees before sweeping toward the edge of the sky.

The clear sound that suddenly erupted was naturally also sensed by Medusa. However, she did not have the time to bother about it at this moment. She lowered her head and studied Xiao Yan, who was in a close proximity to her. Another flicker appeared within those long pupils that were filled with a wildness. Her expression changed repeatedly. This complicated woman had actually begun a struggle of whether to rescue Xiao Yan at such a time.

The first feeling that Medusa had toward Xiao Yan was that she wanted to kill this disgusting fellow on the spot. However, deep within her spirit, there was another thing that repeatedly resisted this kind of feeling. Moreover, it even quietly urged her to lend a hand and rescue Xiao Yan.

The struggle continued for a moment and the glow within Medusa's eyes once again stabilized. She clenched her teeth and said, "Bastard, consider yourself lucky. I will personally take your life one year later!"

Medusa extended her long arm as her voice sounded. Her delicate arm firmly grabbed Xiao Yan's robes. However, her expression suddenly changed when she was about to bring him back up onto the cliff. She immediately threw her palm toward the space behind her without any hesitation.

"Bang!"

The space where her hand landed fluctuated. A frightening energy ripple immediately spread out before shaking the cliff wall by the side and forming numerous crack lines.

"Who are you? Show yourself!" Medusa's feet pressed on empty air. Only then did she remove the force. Her pretty face turned cold as he cried out.

Her cry had just sounded when a strange suction force suddenly surfaced. The unconscious Xiao Yan immediately left Medusa's hand following the tearing sound of cloth. Finally, he was received by an illusionary human figure in a lightning-like manner while he fell before the both of them rushed toward the sky.

"Queen Medusa, you need to ask if this old me agrees before you can take the life of my disciple!"

The old cry was like furious rolling thunder that reverberated across the sky. The powerful Spiritual Strength caused even an expert like Medusa to change her expression.

# Chapter 660: Teacher and Disciple Meet Again

An old human figure was suspended in the sky. That familiar face carried a little nostalgia. It was surprisingly Yao Lao who had been in a slumber within the ring for two years!

At this moment, the body which Yao Lao had agglomerated was clearly more substantial than before. From the powerful Spiritual Strength which was faintly emitted from within his body, one could tell that his slumber these past two years had also caused Yao Lao's strength to increase significantly.

"It's you?" Medusa was startled when her gaze swept over Yao Lao's face. She immediately pressed her eyebrows together and inquired in surprise.

Yao Lao laughed. He raised his head and eyed Xiao Yan who had fallen unconscious. A pleased look was on his face. Although he had descended into a slumber, he was still able to sense an energy moisturizing his spirit in his unconsciousness. Who else other than Xiao Yan would use this kind of action to swiftly aid him in his recovery?

"It is really unexpected that you have successfully swallowed the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' and merge with its spirit. Your progress is very quick. From the looks of it, I have been in a slumber for quite some time right?" Yao Lao glanced at Medusa who was suspended in the sky without relying on any external strength as he laughed faintly.

"You are not bad either. Your strength has actually soared to such an extent after sleeping for two years." Medusa coldly laughed. She glanced at him. Originally, she had thought that she would definitely be able to surpass this mysterious old man once she was able to merge with the spirit of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. However, she did not expect Yao Lao's Spiritual Strength to become increasingly stronger after being in a slumber for two years. During that single lightning-like confrontation earlier, Medusa was able to sense that despite having successfully merged

with the spirit of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' it was still quite difficult for her to defeat Yao Lao.

"Why are you still remaining beside Xiao Yan now that you have already merged with the spirit of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'?" A flicker flashed across Yao Lao lowered eyes. He was extremely clear of the enmity that Medusa held toward Xiao Yan. She was still afraid of him when he was around, and she had to be a little cautious even if she wanted to act. However, given Xiao Yan's strength, it was difficult to guarantee that this vicious woman would not have any other thoughts given Xiao Yan's strength.

Medusa also understood the cold reprieve within Yao Lao's words. She was a haughty person and might listen a little if one spoke nicely to her. However, once one's tone was not to her liking, she would give the other party a cold face regardless of who he or she was. Hence, she also lifted her bewitchingly beautiful face and coldly replied when she heard these words of Yao Lao, "What has it got to do with you that I am staying here? Old fellow, you also have some responsibility for the way that Xiao Yan humiliated me in that manner back then. I did not even find trouble with you now that we meet. Yet, you actually want to manage me?"

"Hee hee, what a razor-tongued girl. When the old me was roaming and dominating the continent, you were just drinking milk in some unknown place." Yao Lao gave a strange laugh. However, the coldness on his face had slowly reduced. Regardless of whether this woman had a killing intent toward Xiao Yan, the latter was at the very least still alive at the moment he met him.

"However, the old me does not have the time to argue with you now. We can settle our score once I wake this little fellow." Yao Lao's gaze looked in all directions before his gaze suddenly paused on a crimson medicinal cauldron on a huge rock between the cliff wall. He could not help but let out a surprised 'huh'. He beckoned with his hand. A suction force appeared out of nowhere as that enormous medicinal cauldron automatically flew up and was suspended in front of Xiao Yan.

"This medicinal cauldron..." Yao Lao's hand gently rubbed against the

numerous carvings of life-like beasts roaring with lifted heads on the medicinal cauldron. The surprise on his face was even richer a moment later. He could not resist speaking softly, "This medicinal cauldron... why does it look so similar to the 'Ten Thousand Beast Cauldron' recorded on the 'Heavenly Cauldron Ranking'?"

Yao Lao clearly had an eye that was many times sharper than Xiao Yan when it came to knowledge of medicinal cauldrons. The latter could only sense that the medicinal cauldron was extraordinary, but had great difficulty guessing its origin. Yao Lao, on the other hand, was able to rely on a rough observation to make an educated guess. He was indeed formidable.

Yao Lao rotated his eyes. They finally landed on Medusa beside him. He sighed in relief only after seeing that she actually had no reaction to this cauldron. He looked at that deep-blue storage ring from Xiao Yan's finger and was about to store the medicinal cauldron when he once again let out a surprised gasp, "There is actually a Spiritual Imprint? This is a high-grade storage ring? Hei, looks like this fellow's life has been quite good these two years."

Yao Lao was stunned for a moment after he was stopped by the faint resistance that was emitted from the storage ring when he was about to store the medicinal cauldron into the storage ring. A moment later, he finally smacked his mouth and praised this deep-blue storage ring.

Yao Lao did not use force after the failure to store the cauldron. He waved his hand and an invisible strength dragged the cauldron such that it was suspended beside him. His gaze swept in all directions before his body moved and immediately rushed toward a mountain top.

Medusa knit her eyebrows when she saw Yao Lao bringing Xiao Yan away. She hesitated for a moment before moving her body and swiftly following along.

Medusa's act of following them naturally did not escape Yao Lao's notice. The latter frowned slightly, but did not stop her. The most important thing now was to wake this little fellow up. Hence, his body

shook and his somewhat illusionary body quietly glided across the sky before stopping on a mountain peak that was covered by huge, lush, green trees.

The moon was like a silver plate that hung in the distant sky. The cool moonlight scattered down, covering the entire mountain range with a faint layer of silver yarn. This layer was unusually beautiful under the dark sky, appearing exceptionally obscure and mysterious.

There was a faint bonfire that was rising within the lush, green forest. The red-colored fire light was extremely eye-catching in the deep dark woods.

The old man beside the bonfire with an aged face touched the forehead of the black-robed, young man. Powerful Spiritual Strength surged out and invaded the latter's exhausted spirit. A cool faced bewitching beauty stood prettily not far from the bonfire. Her long eyes carried an unknown emotion as she looked indifferently at the young and old.

Yao Lao slowly exhaled a long time later. His hand also left Xiao Yan's forehead as his finger shook. A bottle of medicinal pills surfaced. After which, he forcefully stuffed them into Xiao Yan's mouth.

"I have not seen him for two years. It is really unexpected that this little fellow's Spiritual Strength has already become this strong. It is really formidable. However, I wonder exactly what level his strength has reached?" Yao Lao exclaimed and shook his head. He watched Xiao Yan's throat roll as the young man swallow the medicinal pills. The latter's eyes were still tightly shut.

Xiao Yan's breath was currently in his most weary state, and the Dou Qi within his body was almost completely exhausted. Hence, even with Yao Lao's sharp senses, he was unclear of Xiao Yan's exact ability.

While Yao Lao was muttering, Xiao Yan, who was in an unconscious state, suddenly emitted an intense cough. His eyelashes immediately trembled. A moment later, his tightly shut eyes slowly opened.

Xiao Yan's gaze was once again clear. The first thing that was imprinted into his eyes was the extremely familiar old smiling face in front of him

that caused Xiao Yan to be completely at ease.

“Hu...”

Xiao Yan raised his head a moment after he saw that familiar kind old face. He looked at the sky and let out a long breath. After releasing a long breath, it seemed as though all his worries and the pressure he faced were completely removed as he leaned his weak body on the tree trunk behind him. He smiled and said to Yao Lao, “Teacher, I haven’t seen you for two years. Are you well?”

Yao Lao’s gaze stared intently at the cold, stern, young face that had gained an additional maturity compared to two years ago. He knew that during this long period of time in which he was in slumber, this little fellow who had been relying on him before had completely transformed into someone with the qualification and strength to be independent.

The baby eagle which required his constant protection back then was currently able to flap his wings and fly up high, soaring across the sky!

From a certain point of view, the current Xiao Yan already possessed the qualification to leave his teacher.

Yao Lao’s warm shriveled hand gently patted Xiao Yan’s head. He spoke with a pleased smile, “Little fellow, you have done well!”

Xiao Yan merely rubbed his head awkwardly in the face of Yao Lao’s praise. He struggled to sit up, but the waves of weariness that were emitted from his body caused him to helplessly shake his head. He lifted his eyes and suddenly glanced at Medusa a short distance away. He immediately smiled and said, “Thank you for rescuing me Cai Lin.”

Although Xiao Yan had fallen unconscious when he had fallen from the large rock, he was still able to vaguely sense that Queen Medusa had come to his rescue.

Medusa did not show any reaction to Xiao Yan’s thanks. She merely responded in a faint voice, “I did not rescue you. It is he who has saved you. Moreover, I am only thinking of obtaining the medicinal pill which you have promised to refine for me.”

Xiao Yan clearly understood the tough character of Queen Medusa, and was too lazy to dispute with her. He turned his head to Yao Lao by the side and asked with a smile, "Teacher, your strength has improved?"

"It cannot be considered an improvement. I have merely recovered a little of my strength back then. It is likely that I must first settle the problem of my body if I want to completely recover." Yao Lao shook his head and immediately asked somewhat anxiously, "Little fellow, what about that 'Fallen Heart Flame'?"

"It has been refined by me." Xiao Yan smiled and spoke without care.

"I just knew that you would not disappoint anyone." Joy that was difficult to hide immediately surged onto Yao Lao's face when he heard these words. His hand heavily patted Xiao Yan's shoulders. Although Yao Lao had guessed a little when he saw that Xiao Yan was still alive after he had awakened, Yao Lao could not help but rejoice despite his control once his guess had been verified.

Xiao Yan smiled when he saw Yao Lao's joyous face. He hesitated for a moment before suddenly speaking in a soft voice, "Moreover, teacher... this disciple has also finished off that person who betrayed his teacher..."

The soft voice immediately stunned Yao Lao. It was a long time latter before Yao Lao exhaled with all his strength. One could not tell whether his expression was one of grief or relief. His hand slowly but heavily patted Xiao Yan. A low, solemn, old voice that caused one's heart to ache resounded by Xiao Yan's ears.

"Thank you very much, little fellow!"

# Chapter 661: The Ingredients Needed to Refine a Body

Xiao Yan smiled as he observed Yao Lao's relieved expression. He roughly described the situation back then. However, Yao Lao's eyes narrowed and his expression immediately changed when Xiao Yan spoke about the appearance of the people from the 'Hall of Souls' while he was killing Han Feng.

"You said that Han Feng's Spirit was taken by a member of the 'Hall of Souls'?" Yao Lao knit his brows and spoke with a solemn face.

"Aye." Xiao Yan nodded. His heart became worried when he saw Yao Lao's serious manner, and he could not help but carefully ask, "Why? Teacher, is there something wrong?"

Yao Lao knit his brows and mused for a moment. He seemed to be considering something before he slowly spoke, "If it is like this, it is likely that Han Feng did not die so easily."

Xiao Yan was startled. He discovered where the problem lay and immediately asked with a frown, "Teacher, you mean that the 'Hall of Souls' will help him revive?"

"You should also be clearly aware that when a spirit has reached a certain strength, it is able to leave the body and remain alive. Of course, one's strength would be greatly reduced. This is similar to my current condition... moreover, the 'Hall of Souls' clearly possesses a deep understanding for spiritual bodies. Although I am not certain about why they want to capture the spiritual bodies that roam the continent, it is clear from their attack tactics that they clearly possess a great damaging effect toward spiritual bodies." Yao Lao voiced his thoughts, "That evil animal Han Feng had some connection with the 'Hall of Souls' in the past. Back then, the members of the 'Hall of Souls' had participated when he killed me. Fortunately, I had some preparations after that and managed to escape from the 'Hall of Souls'."

“Hence, it is difficult to say for certain that the ‘Hall of Souls’ would not use some unusual method to allow him to remain alive in this world now that Han Feng is in their hands.”

“This ‘Hall of Souls’ is actually so troublesome. It really is an oversight... speaking in this way, it is likely that Han Feng is not completely dead. What a pity.” Xiao Yan knit his brows and smiled bitterly as he shook his head, sighing somewhat regretfully.

“There is nothing to feel pity about. From a certain point of view, you have already killed him once. Even if he remains alive with the help of the ‘Hall of Souls’, his actual strength will definitely be greatly reduced. Even if he wanted to do something, it is likely difficult for him to pose much of a threat.” Yao Lao shook his head and immediately spoke with a serious face, “However, from what you have said, the thing that concerns me most is that those strange fellows from the ‘Hall of Souls’ already clearly know that my spirit is in your body. Perhaps, they will send a dispatch to attack you in the future.”

“Appropriate measures will be taken when the time come. Let’s discuss this when they finally come and find me. Coincidentally, my father’s disappearance seems to be somewhat related to them. It is just as well if they come.” Xiao Yan raised his eyebrows and laughed coldly while possessing absolute confidence.

“Given your current strength, you need not be afraid of being hunted by an ordinary member of the ‘Hall of Souls’. However, the faction known as the ‘Hall of Souls’ is really too strange and unpredictable. Even I am uncertain just how strong they actually are. Therefore, it is best to act carefully.” Yao Lao voiced his opinion.

“That is only natural. A lion must do its best if it wants to capture a rabbit. Moreover, we are now that rabbit. We will definitely end up being captured by them if we aren’t careful.” Xiao Yan smiled and replied.

Yao Lao nodded slightly. He mused for a moment and appeared to have recalled something. Suddenly, he turned his head toward Queen Medusa who was a short distance away and said with a smile, “There is something

I wish to discuss privately with my disciple. Can you please step away for a moment.”

Medusa pressed her eyebrows together after hearing Yao Lao’s words. She glanced at Xiao Yan who was well before snorting coldly. After which, she turned around. Her body strangely disappeared from beside the bonfire with a flash.

“It is really unexpected that her strength would actually increase this much after her spirit merged with that of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’. With her current strength, forget about you, it would be dangerous for me to attempt to beat her even with my current strength.” Yao Lao’s gaze stared at the spot Medusa had disappeared from before sighing a moment later. There was actually a trace of fear in his words.

“Ke ke, teacher, you need not be worried. She will not act against me for at least a year. Moreover, if something were to happen to me, I am able to request that she intervenes. While you were in a slumber, I have taken advantage of her strength a couple of times to act in an imposing manner.” Xiao Yan smiled and said.

“You little devil, really have a lot of wicked ideas. You are actually even able to subdue such a vicious woman. However, you should still be careful. This woman is just like an unruly female leopard. She will be a great assistant if you can tame her properly. However, once you fail, it is likely that you will be the first person she swallows in retaliation.” Yao Lao smiled first before reminding Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded.

“Let’s discuss some proper business first.” Yao Lao’s eyes stared at Xiao Yan. His gaze had some anxiety to it as he spoke, “The ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ has already been successfully refined by you? In that case, the two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flame’... have they merged?”

Xiao Yan parted his mouth and smiled as he watched Yao Lao’s manner. He slowly extended his hand and flicked his finger. A wisp of Glazed Lotus Heart Flame surfaced on it. Since Xiao Yan was in a weary state at this moment, the wisp of flame was very small. However, this did not hinder

the frightening temperature from spreading.

“The merger has really succeeded!” Yao Lao’s expression was somewhat excited as his gaze stared at that wisp of dark-green flame. This ‘Flame Mantra’ was something that even he had not practiced. Hence, he was also uncertain whether it would truly be able to swallow and merge the ‘Heavenly Flames’. After all, only one ‘Heavenly Flame’ could exist within the body of a single person. This was common knowledge within the alchemist world. Even someone as strong as Yao Lao back then only dared to absorb one kind of ‘Heavenly Flame’, much less anyone else. However, this mysterious ‘Flame Mantra’ had now broken this common sense and completely reversed it!

One could imagine just what kind of commotion it would cause once the special effects of the ‘Flame Mantra’ were made public!

One type of ‘Heavenly Flame’ was sufficient to allow an alchemist or a fire affinity practitioner to possess an incredibly great strength. What if one had two types, three types, or even more? It would likely not be overboard to describe the great accumulated strength as being able to destroy the sky and earth.

Xiao Yan smiled as he studied Yao Lao’s agitated face. His finger was gently inserted into the wisp of dark-green flame. He immediately pulled it back and the dark-green flame was divided into two clusters of flame with different colors. The one on the left was green in color while the one on the right was colorless and invisible.

“It can actually be separated after the merger?” Yao Lao could not help but express great surprise when he saw the two clusters of familiar flame on both of Xiao Yan’s hands. His face was immediately stunned.

“If they are separated, they consume a lot of Dou Qi. However, the advantage is that the two could be used for different purposes. If they are merged together, its strength is much more frightening.” Xiao Yan smiled. He once again merged the two flames into the Glazed Lotus Heart Flame as he raised his head to Yao Lao and asked curiously, “Teacher, what will be the rank of this Glazed Lotus Heart Flame that I have merged and

formed on the 'Heavenly Flame Ranking'?"

Yao Lao's hand swayed above the dark-green flame as he mused for a moment. He finally said somewhat helplessly, "Those 'Heavenly Flame' on the 'Heavenly Flame Ranking' are all extremely rare. Even I was unable to see all of them. Therefore, I am naturally unable to evaluate this Glazed Lotus Heart Flame of yours. However, from my guess, it should not be ranked lower than my 'Bone Chilling Flame'."

Xiao Yan merely shrugged his shoulders at this vague reply.

"That's right... since you have already swallowed and merged the 'Fallen Heart Flame', the 'Flame Mantra' should have evolved right?" Yao Lao suddenly asked.

"Yes. I think that my 'Flame Mantra' should have stepped into the Di class right?" Xiao Yan rubbed his head and spoke uncertainly.

"Try and circulate your Qi Method. I will examine it." Yao Lao mused for a moment before placing his hand on Xiao Yan's heart as he spoke.

Xiao Yan immediately did as he was told after hearing this. His mind moved, and the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method within his body began to circulate rapidly. With the circulation of the Qi Method, the surrounding natural energy began to ripple swiftly as a natural energy swiftly entered Xiao Yan's body. After which, it underwent various refinements before being stored all over his body.

"Aye. This energy absorption speed is indeed much stronger than before. From the looks of it, it has indeed entered the Di class. However, it should only be at the Di Class Low Level." Yao Lao withdrew his hand and immediately spoke with a smile, "However, given the uniqueness of the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method, it could be comparable to a Di Class Middle Level Qi Method even though it is at the Di Class Low Level. With this current Qi Method level, it should be sufficient for you to squander Dou Qi without worry."

Xiao Yan nodded his head and laughed softly, "Teacher, I have already merged two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame'. Can I help you refine a body that can accommodate your spirit?"

Yao Lao was startled when he heard these words of Xiao Yan. He immediately felt somewhat gratified in his heart. He rubbed Xiao Yan's head and spoke with a faint voice, "It might be barely possible if there are two types of 'Heavenly Flames' but there should not be much of a problem if my 'Bone Chilling Flame' is added. However, the ingredients needed to refine a body are really far too rare and even frightening. Therefore, we cannot rush this."

"What are the ingredients needed? Now, I am also in possession of some strength within the 'Black-Corner Region'. Perhaps I can get someone to look for them." Xiao Yan inquired.

"These things are not things that can be obtained by just searching." Yao Lao laughed bitterly. However, he could only helplessly nod his head when he saw Xiao Yan's earnest gaze. He said, "There are not many things you need if you want to refine a body that could truly accommodate my spirit. It only requires three kinds of things."

Xiao Yan hurriedly became focused when he saw Yao Lao lift three fingers. He immediately gave Yao Lao his ear as he listened carefully.

"First, Bone Growing Blood Fusing Pill."

"Second, the blood essence of a rank 7 Magical Beast."

"Third, the skeleton of an elite Dou Zong."

Xiao Yan's originally solemn expression also gradually become dull when he heard the three things that slowly escaped from Yao Lao's mouth.

Bone Growing Blood Fusing Pill? This was something that Xiao Yan had some knowledge about. A medicinal pill at the peak of the seventh tier. It could even step into the eighth tier. Legend has it that it was an extremely great medicine that could immediately save a half-dead person who still had a breath left.

The blood essence of a rank 7 Magical Beast? God, was that not describing Queen Medusa?

The skeleton of an elite Dou Zong?

This... did he really needed to go and look for an elite Dou Zong to kill?  
Given his current ability, it was difficult to say just who would kill who...

# Chapter 662: Finding Solutions

Yao Lao also smiled as he saw Xiao Yan's stunned expression. He also knew just how shocking these three ingredients were to Xiao Yan, and was thus not very surprised. He merely comforted, "It is extremely difficult to get ahold of these things. Hence, I have said not to rush. I am already very gratified that you have this thought. In any case, we still have lots of time left. We can slowly find them."

Xiao Yan's expression gradually recovered. He rested for a moment before laughing bitterly. He felt a giddiness in his head. The blood essence of a rank 7 Magical Beast. This was equivalent to an extremely powerful Dou Zong. Moreover, the essence blood was something that a Magical Beast relied on to survive and grow. It was just like the fresh blood and bones within a human body. Once this thing was drawn out from the body of a Magical Beast, it would naturally immediately lose its life. Hence, if one was to summarize in this manner, one must kill an extremely powerful Magical Beast that could contend against an elite Dou Zong if one wanted to obtain the blood essence of a rank 7 Magical Beast... but Xiao Yan had not even met a Magical Beast of such a rank even once since he was born, much less discussed killing it.

The skeleton of an elite Dou Zong... this ingredient also caused Xiao Yan to be similarly speechless. An elite Dou Zong could roam unhindered over the land. Most of those who could muddle on until this extent possessed quite a strong faction. Once they were killed, it would either be the case of them leaving nothing behind or that their corpse would be severely hidden and protected. If anyone dared to touch the skeleton of their ancestors, it was likely that they would bring everyone to come after you with all their might even if there was a big gap between their strength and yours. Hence, this thing was an extremely troublesome ingredient.

The so-called 'Bone Growing Blood Fusing Pill' was naturally also not some simple thing. A medicinal pill at the peak of the seventh tier was likely something that Yao Lao could not guarantee he would succeed even if he used all of his strength. There was no need to even mention the

various strange and rare medicinal ingredients needed to refine the 'Bone Growing Blood Fusing Pill'. It was going to be unavoidably enormous trouble to gather all these things.

Xiao Yan's face carried a bitterness as he nodded.. He sighed, "I will remember all these in my heart. If I get the opportunity, I will definitely think of methods to gather all of these ingredients in the future."

Yao Lao smiled slightly and said, "It would naturally not be this troublesome if one were to refine an ordinary body to accommodate a spirit. However, the stronger one's Spiritual Strength, the more stringent the requirements of the body. Currently, my Spiritual Strength is quite strong. Hence, if I don't use a stronger body, it is likely that my spirit would inflate the new body until it explodes after just entering it."

"However, I think that if you managed to gather all these medicinal ingredients and successfully refine a body that could accommodate a spirit in the future, it is likely that my strength would be stronger than when I was at my peak once my spirit merges with the new body. After all, my current Spiritual Strength is much stronger than back then." Yao Lao laughed.

Xiao Yan only felt a slight joy after hearing this. One could tell from listening to the manner in which Su Qian and the others addressed Yao Lao, that Yao Lao back then should have been a true elite Dou Zun. If one were a little stronger than this level, would that not mean that one would be an elite Dou Sheng that existed only in legends?

Yao Lao seemed to have guessed some of Xiao Yan's thoughts when he saw that joyous face of his. He immediately shook his head and said, "You can stop daydreaming. Do you think that it is really so easy to ascend to an elite Dou Sheng? If I really possessed that kind of strength, they would also treat me seriously if I went to your little girlfriend's clan to help you propose marriage."

Xiao Yan was startled. His heart immediately shook a little. From these words of Yao Lao, he could vaguely sense the frightening strength the mysterious clan that Xun Er belonged to. They would only treat him

seriously if Yao Lao reach the Dou Sheng class. In other words, it was actually difficult for them to view him seriously by just relying on his Dou Zun's strength?

Xiao Yan knit his brows intently, and sighed in his heart. Just what clan did that Xun Er belong to? It was actually strong enough to cause an elite Dou Zun, who was enough to dominate the continent, to be this afraid.

"Looks like I still have an extremely long journey to travel..."

"Alright, little fellow, there is no need to think so much. With your talent, I believe that you will sooner or later possess the ability to truly be comparable to that little girlfriend of yours. Ha ha, a twenty year old elite Dou Wang. One might not dare to say that such an achievement is yours alone in the continent, but it is sufficient to look down on a countless number of people." Yao Lao smiled and comforted Xiao Yan when he saw the rapidly changing face of Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He raised his head and stared at Yao Lao. His mouth moved. That manner of his where he spoke intermittently was as though he wanted to say something.

"I know that you are very interested in that clan of your little girlfriend. However, there are some things that aren't beneficial to you if you are told now. I can only tell you that the clan of theirs is one that has existed since the ancient times. They possess an extremely frightening strength, and a special talent that an ordinary person has difficulty matching... little fellow, the Dou Qi continent is very large. The things that you have come into contact with now are but the corner of an iceberg. In the future, you will gradually realize that this nearly endless continent is even more interesting than you can imagine." Yao Lao seemed to have clearly understood what Xiao Yan wanted to ask. However, he waved his hand and simply replied with a smile.

Xiao Yan slowly inhaled a deep breath of somewhat icy air. He nodded slightly once he suppressed the restlessness within his heart. His face also recovered the calmness of the past.

"You should calmly recuperate now. You have turned yourself into such

an exhausted state when you woke me up this time. If you had continued without due care for the consequences, you might have hurt your strength slightly.” Yao Lao patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders and spoke with a smile.

Xiao Yan nodded. He mused for a moment before he suddenly took out a scroll and a strange-shaped jade bottle from his storage ring. There was a medicinal pill that appeared to be agglomerated from fresh blood quietly lying within the jade bottle.

“Huh? This medicinal bottle actually holds traces of an energy seal? This medicinal pill...” Yao Lao’s gaze stared intently at the jade bottle the moment it appeared. This was especially when his gaze swept past the scarlet medicinal pill within it. A solemnness gradually surged onto his old face as he suppressed his voice and quietly asked.

“Teacher, this medicinal pill is something that you have mentioned to me by chance back then... ‘Life Devouring Pill’.” Xiao Yan’s expression also became quite solemn. His voice was also suppressed until it was very soft. Only the two of them could hear it.

“It is indeed this thing...” Yao Lao’s eyes shrank. He slowly inhaled a breath of cold air. He had already faintly guessed something from the appearance of the blood-colored medicinal pill along with the medicinal bottle that contained the traces of an energy seal.

“How did you manage to get ahold of this thing? According to what I know, this medicinal pill had mysteriously disappeared with its creator on the continent back then.” Yao Lao knit his brows. His gaze suddenly turned to the scroll by the side as he said, “Don’t tell me that this is the... medicinal formula?”

“Yes. This is the medicinal formula of the ‘Life Devouring Pill’.” Xiao Yan nodded his head and said helplessly, “This thing is something that my second brother had obtained deep in the mountains. It is also because of this that I want to ask teachers for help.”

“Don’t tell me that your second brother has consumed this medicinal pill?” Yao Lao smiled bitterly, and could not help but rub his somewhat painful head when he saw the increased helplessness on Xiao Yan’s face.

He sighed, "This 'Life Devouring Pill' might be able to allow a person to become an elite Dou Wang within an extremely short period of time, but it is obtained by exchanging all of the remainder of one's life. The lifespan of a person who has consumed this medicinal pill would be at most three years."

"My second brother only has one year of life remaining." Xiao Yan's expression sank as he spoke softly, "Back then second brother thought I had died when I stuck underground. The clan's revenge had yet to be taken. In his despair, he could only risk his life and swallow the 'Life Devouring Pill'."

Yao Lao smiled bitterly. Why did all the offspring of the Xiao clan possess such unyielding characters?

"Teacher, don't tell me that there is really no means to undo the effect of this 'Life Devouring Pill'?" Xiao Yan's gaze looked at Yao Lao as he asked in a somewhat urgent and expectant manner.

Yao Lao descended into a silence as he studied Xiao Yan's earnest gaze. This 'Life Devouring Pill' was the masterpiece of that alchemist grandmaster back then. The birth of the medicinal pill had caused quite a great commotion. It would be quite difficult to undo its effect.

Yao Lao's mused for a moment before finally opening his mouth in the face of Xiao Yan's gradually disappointed eyes. "Everything gives birth to opposites. If there is a poison, there must be an antidote... although I don't have absolute confidence about whether it is really possible to undo the effect of this 'Life Devouring Pill', we can give it a try."

Xiao Yan sighed in relief when he heard that Yao Lao did not reject all hope. He handed the scroll and medicinal bottle to Yao Lao and sighed, "Since that is the case, I will trouble teacher to help study this thing. It would naturally be best if there is a way to undo it. If not... let's leave fate to the heavens."

Yao Lao nodded. He received the two things and weighed them in his hand before voicing his thoughts, "You must remember not to mention the 'Life Devouring Pill' to anyone. You should also remind your second

brother. Otherwise, it will bring about some trouble.”

“I have already informed second brother of this.” Xiao Yan smiled. He was not some novice who was unaware of everything. His experience and sophistication from training in the outside world far exceeded those of his age.

Yao Lao was also reassured of Xiao Yan’s cautiousness and did not inquire more about it. He smiled and said, “You have already accounted for everything, it is time for you to rest and recuperate. Recover your strength first. This is the most important thing.”

Xiao Yan also smiled and nodded after hearing this. He sat cross-legged and slowly shut his eyes. A moment later, his breathing gradually became low and deep. He inhaled and exhaled, forming a perfect cycle. The surrounding air also fluctuated slightly as his breathing cycle was formed. Immediately, an unceasing flow of energy surged out before it was completely absorbed into the former’s body, filling up his exhausted body...

Yao Lao shook his head helplessly as he watched Xiao Yan enter his training mode. He eyed the scroll in his hand, smiled bitterly and softly spoke, “This fellow was actually even able to get his hands on the medicinal formula for the ‘Life Devouring Pill’. However, it is easier said than done to obtain a method to undo it...”

Yao Lao rubbed his somewhat painful head. His face was completely dispirited. Being his teacher was not relaxing...

# Chapter 663: Recover

In order to wake Yao Lao up this time around, Xiao Yan not only had to squeeze out all the Dou Qi within his body until it was completely empty, but his Spiritual Strength had also suffered quite the blow. Hence, it was still quite difficult for him to recover to his peak condition within a short period of time despite the fact that the 'Flame Mantra' had already evolved into a Di class Qi Method.

However, it was fortunate that Yao Lao had already reawakened. With this safe guardian, Xiao Yan no longer needed to worry about other matters disturbing him. Hence, he was able to completely relax and enter into his training mode to recuperate. There was no longer a need to worry about the slightest influence from the outside world.

Through this kind of quiet recuperation, which was void of any distractions, Xiao Yan's empty body was gradually filled by waves of Dou Qi flowing in. His weariness was becoming fainter with each day. From the looks of his progress, his body would be completely healed soon.

A black-robed, young man sat cross-legged on a quiet mountain peak within the lush, green mountain forest. His body was as stable as a rock. He did not make the slightest movement, even allowing the wild wind to cause his robes to emit a fluttering sound.

There was a fluctuation in the air around the black-robed, young man. Waves of natural energy seeped out around him before flowing unceasingly into his body. Due to the speed of the surging energy being too fierce, it ended up appearing to form an energy whirlpool around his body. The middle of that whirlpool was that body which was just like a bottomless pit.

This form of energy absorption continued for nearly an hour or so before this momentum was gradually reduced. A moment later, the gradual ripples of the energy swirl finally began to slowly scatter.

The young man's unmoving body trembled slightly with the scattering of the energy swirl. His tightly shut eyes were suddenly opened!

Xiao Yan opened both of his eyes. The two substance-like clusters of dark-green flame shot out from within. An instant later, however, the flame emitted a 'suo' sound and shrank back into his eyes before the light swiftly faded away.

“Hu!”

A mouthful of turbid air that had been suppressed in his chest followed the rolling of his throat, and was eventually exhaled by Xiao Yan. A layer of faint jade-like luster surfaced on Xiao Yan's face as this turbid air was exhaled. The weariness that was hidden between his brows over these past days had also completely disappeared at this moment.

Xiao Yan clenched his hand slowly but tightly. The feeling of being filled with strength caused the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth to involuntarily form a smile. Through these nearly seven days of recuperation, he had finally completely recovered from the exhaustion of the Dou Qi within his body as well as the blow that his spirit had received. Moreover, he had reaped an unexpected reward. Just before he had stopped earlier, Xiao Yan clearly felt a faint feeling the Dou Qi in his body becoming a little more powerful than before.

Although he was still at the peak of the Dou Wang class, each level had a difference between the upper and lower levels. It was just like a water bottle with a level scale. Although the water within it had reached the level of a certain marking, there was still quite a large gap between this marking and the next one above. The increasingly more powerful Dou Qi was just like the repeatedly rising water. Sooner or later, it would rise to an even higher marking. At that time, it would be the moment that Xiao Yan broke through to the Dou Huang class!

Due to the soaring of his strength in the past and Xiao Yan falling into a near death state for two years, he had difficulty controlling the strength within his body perfectly after he had awakened. Hence, Xiao Yan had appeared to have entered a dead end all this time. It was difficult for his strength to rise even a little regardless of how he trained...

However, after these past two months where he had completely used all

the Dou Qi within his body, the control and familiarity Xiao Yan had over the strength within his body had greatly increased. It was because of this that he felt that his strength had advanced now that he had completely recuperated and recovered his strength. This kind of situation was something that was very difficult to do in the past. However, once it did appear, it meant that the current Xiao Yan had already begun to control the strength within his body and had reached the qualification for his strength to continue to rise.

Xiao Yan also clearly understood this point within his heart. It was this reason that caused him to feel such joy when he felt his strength advance.

Xiao Yan stood up from the huge rock. He looked down at the sea of trees that spread to the edge of his sight from a high vantage point. With a slight smile, his hand habitually formed an extremely familiar strange seal and immediately gently pushed it forward.

The hand seal was pushed forward and carried a wind. Of course, Xiao Yan would naturally not randomly use the 'Open Mountain Seal' due to the overly great exhaustion of his Dou Qi to do so. Hence, this particular 'Open Mountain Seal' did not bring about any activity. Despite not using any Dou Qi, the air still gently rippled wherever the hand seal passed. Although the ripple was extremely small, it was stirred by completely relying on the mysterious hand seal.

"Although I have practiced this 'Open Mountain Seal' for such a long time, I am still only barely able to grasp it. It is indeed worthy of being a Di Class High Level Dou Technique. One faces many difficulties practicing it."

Xiao Yan slowly undid his hand seal, and a faint silver-colored glow suddenly surged on his feet. His body trembled, and an afterimage remained in the original spot. His body had quietly rushed into the sky in a ghost-like manner. The mystery of the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' was such that Xiao Yan was actually able to pause for a short moment in the sky even without the support of a pair of Dou Qi wings.

Xiao Yan's figure paused for a moment in the sky. A pair of beautiful

jade-green wings shot out from Xiao Yan's back. He flapped them gently and stabilized his descending body.

"The current 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' should have already reached the second level, the Instant Lightning level. I really don't know when I will be able to enter that final level 'Three Thousand Lightning'..." Xiao Yan lowered his head and studied the flickering threads of lightning under his feet before he sighed and spoke. He really yearned for that level in which he obtained the frightening speed that Yao Lao had mentioned upon complete mastery of the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement'.

"Ke ke, little fellow, have you finally recovered your strength..." Yao Lao's laughter suddenly sounded while Xiao Yan was musing. The sound of rushing wind immediately sounded as a somewhat illusionary human figure appeared in front of Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded as he faced the smiling Yao Lao in front of him.

"Looks like not only have you completely recovered from your injuries, but your strength has also advanced." Yao Lao raised his brows as he observed the little glow that was hidden in Xiao Yan's dark-black eyes. He spoke in a somewhat surprised manner. Currently, he had already known about the situation where Xiao Yan's strength had soared when he was underground. Hence, he felt quite surprised that Xiao Yan was able to completely control the strength within his body and allow his strength to increase once again within such a short period of time.

"It has been quite a couple of months since I have left the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Would I have the qualification to return to the Jia Ma Empire if I am still unable to control my own strength?" Xiao Yan smiled as he replied

"The Jia Ma Empire huh... ke ke, it is really unexpected that in the blink of an eye, we been away from that empire for over three years." Yao Lao laughed softly.

"That's right... three years." Xiao Yan faintly smiled. In the first three

years, he had received the humiliation from Nalan Yanran breaking off the engagement. In the second three years, he was chased after by the Misty Cloud Sect until he was like a dog that had lost its home, and was forced to flee from the empire in a miserable manner. However, he had already completely repaid the humiliation from the first three years. This second one... might not be long.

“When are you planning to return? With your current strength, you already possess the qualifications to challenge the Misty Cloud Sect.” Yao Lao’s gaze was filled with gratitude as he observed the young man in front of him. He felt like sobbing in his heart. He recalled the young man back then who needed to always borrow his strength in order to mix with the upper echelons of the Jia Ma Empire. Now, he truly possessed the strength of someone strong. Two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flames’, a Di class Qi Method, and various kinds of profound Dou Techniques by his side. The Jia Ma Empire could no longer restrain him!

“Soon. I can leave once I have settled some issues in this place.” Xiao Yan smiled as he replied softly, “Currently, I also have some strength within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. This time around, I will be bringing quite a number of experts back. The Misty Cloud Sect has many strong people. Moreover, it also possesses quite the strong gathering ability within the Jia Ma Empire. If I were to return alone, it would be difficult for my pair of fists to defeat four hands. It is fine if it is me alone. If I cannot defeat them, I can turn around and flee. However, the members of the Xiao clan remaining within the Jia Ma Empire cannot. Hence, there must be no accident this time around.”

Yao Lao studied the smiling young man in front of him with some surprise. A moment later, he patted the latter’s head and spoke in a pleased voice, “Little fellow has indeed grown up. You are no longer that impulsive child you were back then. You are now actually able to gather such deep thoughts about the entire situation.”

Back then, Xiao Yan had descended into fury because of his father’s disappearance. He senselessly charged up to the Misty Cloud Sect once again and killed the First Elder Yun Leng, who was the only one who could

have known where his father was. Not only did he end up completely losing the trail of his missing father, but he had also caused the relationship between both parties to completely break apart and break down to the extent where they were now mortal enemies. This was indeed rather reckless. Compared to himself back then, not only did the strength of the current Xiao Yan progress greatly, but his character had also become much more mature and cool.

In three years, the young man back then had transformed into a strong person who truly had the ability to act independently!

“Teacher, thank you very much for what happened in the past.”

Xiao Yan was also somewhat embarrassed in the face of Yao Lao’s words. Now that he recalled what happened back then, he had indeed committed quite a number of reckless acts. Yao Lao had not only not tried to persuade him otherwise, but had instead accompanied him as he went on a rampage. Now that he thought of it, Xiao Yan did not have anything but gratitude in his heart toward this teacher who had performed his duty to the best of his ability.

“Brat, why are you saying such words now. Can a young person be called a young person if he is not impulsive and reckless?” Yao Lao slapped his hand on Xiao Yan’s shoulders and scolded with a smile.

Xiao Yan also smiled slightly when faced with Yao Lao’s relieved, happy smile. He slowly turned around and threw his gaze to the distant north. There was an empire thousands of kilometers in that direction called the Jia Ma Empire. In it was a sect called the Misty Cloud Sect!

“Misty Cloud Sect... just wait. Soon, we will meet again...”

A faint, cold smile formed on the handsome face of the young man as red sunlight from the setting sun landed on it.

# Chapter 664: The Three Yao Brothers

A couple of human figures were seated within the spacious Meeting Room within Feng City. Occasional laughing sounds could be heard as a couple of graceful female servants shuttled through the hall to serve tea and water to the various important guests.

“Ke ke, brother Xiao Li. Thanks to the medicinal pill auction idea some time earlier, the population within the current Feng City is sufficient to squeeze into the top three of the ‘Black-Corner Region’. Feng City wasn’t able to achieve such a peak even when the ‘Black Alliance’ was occupying this place back then.” A rough laugh sounded within the hall. The person who was speaking had bare arms with a tattoo of a fierce lion roaring toward the sky on his chest. His appearance was surprisingly the gang leader of the Wild Lion Gang whom others called Wild Lion Tie Wu.

After Tie Wu’s laughter sounded, the leader of the Dark Sky Sect and Luo Sha Gate who were seated beside him also smiled and nodded. Within a short three months, the profits that they had obtained were even richer than what they had obtained during the last half a year. This was all because they were collaborating with ‘Xiao Gate’.

“Chief Tie is too courteous. All of us are simply getting what we need.” Xiao Li, who was seated in the leader’s seat smiled and replied upon hearing this.

Tie Wu and the other two smiled. Their gazes involuntarily turned to the area behind Xiao Li. There were three men wearing similar colored robes quietly standing behind him.

The three men appeared to be around thirty years old. Their faces were filled with a dark brutality. The three of them looked somewhat similar, and it was likely that they were related by blood. However, the most important thing was the aura that was emitted from the bodies of the three of them. By sensing a little, one could vaguely tell that the three of them were actually all experts at the Dou Wang class.

“Ke ke, it is really unexpected that brother Xiao Li was able to even

recruit the three Yao brothers, it causes others to be envious. However, they had offended the Gold-Silver Brothers a few years earlier. Therefore, there aren't many factions within the 'Black-Corner Region' who would dare keep them. The current Xiao Gate is the only one which possesses such a strength." The shadowy-faced old man from the Dark Sky Sect, who was called Old Yin Gu, glanced at the three people behind Xiao Li and spoke with a smile.

Xiao Li smiled, waved his hand and said, "The three Yao brothers aren't under my command. They have merely come to 'Xiao Gate' as guests."

Tie Wu curled his lips in his heart when he heard Xiao Li's words. These three fellows were renowned within the 'Black-Corner Region' for being stubborn. If they did not come willingly to join you, would they quietly stand behind you like pillars given their character?

The so-called three Yao brothers did not even raise their eyebrows because of the conversation within the hall. That manner was as though the conversation of Xiao Li and the others had nothing to do with them.

"Ha ha, brother Xiao Li, it seems that we have not seen any traces of Chief Xiao during these three months? This 'Black-Corner Region' is overly chaotic, and Feng City is currently attracting so much attention. If Chief Xiao is not around to keep watch, it is unavoidable that some trouble might occur." The only female among the leaders of the three large factions, Chief Su Mei of Luo Sha Gate raised her eyes and randomly asked with a lovely smile.

Tie Wu and Old Yin Gu by her side also slowly paused their hands when these words were spoken. Their gazes partially swept toward Xiao Li who was on the leader's seat.

With the increasingly frightening population within Feng City, its profits had also become something that others were more and more envious of. Without a strength to satisfy others, it was likely that one would be replaced by another within a short period of time in this 'Black-Corner Region' where one was surrounded by many strong people who possessed malicious intent.

Although the three large factions had also reached an agreement with the 'Xiao Gate' under the pressure of Xiao Yan's and Medusa's powerful strength, the lack of appearance of Xiao Yan during these last three months, and the increasingly rich profits of Feng City inevitably caused the three large factions, which were not friendly to begin with, to get some other ideas.

Xiao Li merely smiled faintly in the face of the partially visible gazes of the three leaders. He carelessly said, "My third brother doesn't like to be restrained. He told me that he was going to search for medicinal ingredients in the deep mountains to refine medicinal pills some time earlier. It is only natural that he doesn't have time to show himself. I can inform the three of you once he is back if you are pining for him."

The three of them smiled when they heard this. Old Yin Gu placed the teacup in his hand down and smiled and said, "Brother Xiao, although we have an agreement that we will follow you to the Jia Ma Empire to deal with your enemy, you should also know that the Misty Cloud Sect possesses an elite Dou Zong. Hence, we will not dare to go if chief Xiao and that person do not follow."

Xiao Li knit his brows. These three cunning fellows were indeed seasoned people who had muddled along with the 'Black-Corner Region' for such a long time. They were actually leaving a means to escape at such a time in case of any trouble that might occur in the future.

"Ke ke, why? Do the three of you have any doubts about the agreement back then? If you have, you can directly mention it to Xiao Yan." A faint laugh suddenly sounded from outside just as Xiao Li was prepared to open his mouth. Immediately, two human figures slowly entered in front of Xiao Li's joyous eyes.

Tie Wu and the other two were startled when they saw the black-robed, young man who had suddenly appeared. They immediately forced a smile on their faces and stood up before cupping their hands together and spoke politely, "What is Chief Xiao saying? We will definitely not go back on our agreement back then. Otherwise, where would we have the face to continue staying within the 'Black-Corner Region' in the future?"

The people who had suddenly appeared were naturally Xiao Yan and Medusa who had returned from the deep mountains. The former smiled and glanced at the heaps of smiles on the faces of the three of them. However, his heart scoffed at their words. How much was the word 'trust' worth in the 'Black-Corner Region'?

"Ke ke, I think that the three of you have obtained quite the profit during this period right? Everyone should earn it if there is money. I never had any objection to this. However, the people who want to part ways after getting the money... ke ke, Xiao Yan may be young but I am not a soft person. I think that the three of you should be very clear about this point." Xiao Yan glanced at the three people and spoke with a faint voice. Appropriate beatings were extremely useful toward these cunning people. The people of the 'Black-Corner Region' were cowed by force, but did not respond to soft persuasion.

As expected, the expressions of the three of them changed a little upon hearing Xiao Yan's words, which carried a threat. They immediately hurriedly nodded their heads to prove his point.

"The three of you need not be anxious. I am merely randomly saying this." Xiao Yan spread his hand when he saw the changed expression on the three faces. He smiled and said, "We might be going to the Jia Ma Empire within these two months. The three of you should make preparations. When things succeed, I will definitely deliver all the 'Huang Class Pill's' that I promised you."

"Within these two months?" Tie Wu and the other three were startled when they heard this. Was this amount of time not a little too rushed? Although they muttered a little in their hearts, they did not dare to utter any objection at this moment. Moreover, under that enormous temptation of the 'Huang Class Pill', the three of them hesitated only a little before nodding and agreeing.

"Looks like we should quickly settle all the matters within the sect." This thought flashed within the three of them simultaneously. They conversed a little more with Xiao Yan before hurriedly bid him goodbye.

Xiao Yan sent the three backs off with his eyes before curling his mouth slightly. He coldly said, "Those three cunning fellows. Did they really think that it is so easy to take advantage of me?"

"Little fellow, you are finally back. The matters within the Feng City during this half a year have really agonized me badly." Xiao Li stepped down from the leader's seat and came to Xiao Yan's front. He patted the latter's shoulders as he spoke with a smile.

"How is Feng City now?" Xiao Yan smiled and asked.

"Not bad. Perhaps it is because you have shown yourself and deterred the Gold Silver Brothers, but there is hardly anyone within this 'Black-Corner Region' who dares obstruct us now. Some of the large shops who possess some capital have also settled into the city one after another. The population within Feng City is likely to have reached the top three cities within the 'Black-Corner Region'. Just think of the profits. What we have earned in these couple of months is something that cannot even be matched by two years of work by the mercenary company back then." Xiao Li shook his head and sighed emotionally.

Xiao Yan smiled as he saw Xiao Li's emotional sigh. His gaze suddenly turned to the three human figures behind Xiao Li and raised his brows slightly. He could sense that these three people were actually all experts at the Dou Wang class.

"Who are these three?"

"The three Yao brothers greet chief!" Without waiting for Xiao Li to call them, the three men who had maintained an indifferent expression suddenly cupped their hands in an orderly and respectful manner as they spoke.

"These three are brothers related by blood. They share the surname Yao. Although they did not join any factions in the past, three elite Dou Wangs are also quite powerful. Hence, they do have some reputation within the 'Black-Corner Region'. They offended the Gold Silver Brothers a few years earlier. Therefore they have been hiding within the 'Black-Corner Region'. I discovered them some time ago, so I called them over." Xiao Li explained

by his side.

Xiao Yan came to a sudden understanding. He immediately nodded and spoke to the three of them, "Since you have joined 'Xiao Gate', we are naturally one family. You need not be worried about the Gold Silver Brothers. Now, it is likely that those two old fellows don't have the courage to appear in Feng City."

Since his relationship with the Gold Silver Brothers was originally extremely terrible, Xiao Yan would naturally not shut the door on these three expert Dou Wangs. Naturally, it was best that he had as many subordinates as possible when he returned to the Jia Ma Empire.

Joy surged onto the faces of the three Yao brothers when they heard Xiao Yan's words. They had lived quite miserably during these past few years. The name of the Gold Silver Brothers was too renowned within the 'Black-Corner Region'. It was to the point that many factions did not keep them and dare offend those two old fellows who would not die.

"Chief, I am the oldest among us three brothers. There is no longer a need to mention my old name. If you have any instructions in the future, you can call us Big Yao, Second Yao, Third Yao." The man who looked the oldest spoke respectfully to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan also smiled at this simple and interesting form of address. He immediately nodded, turned his head around and spoke to Xiao Li with a smile, "Second brother, start gathering everyone... Gather all the strong people that our 'Xiao Gate' can spare. Perhaps we will be return to the Jia Ma Empire within these two months."

"Ugh? Alright!" Xiao Li was initially stunned when he heard this. His face was immediately filled with joy as he nodded rapidly. He had waited far too long for this!

"Next, I will have to make a trip to the Inner Academy. I shall leave the matter of gathering helpers to you." Xiao Yan smiled and said.

"No problem! Leave it to me!"

Xiao Li parted his mouth and smiled. His gaze turned toward the distant

southern sky outside. A savage arc faintly surfaced on his cold, stern face.

“Misty Cloud Sect, the person seeking revenge is about to come... are you prepared?”

# Chapter 665: Looking After

Xiao Yan stood on a spacious path within the Inner Academy. He watched the students who were filled with vitality coming and going, and his somewhat cold face, cold from having lingered within the 'Black-Corner Region' for a couple of months, finally became much warmer. Although the competitive atmosphere within the Inner Academy was quite strong, it was really like paradise when compared to the cruel 'Black-Corner Region'.

The person who had followed Xiao Yan into the Inner Academy was still Medusa, who had been following closely beside Xiao Yan. These two people were standing on the main road where people came and went without any misgivings. Naturally, they attracted a countless number of surprised and curious gazes. With Medusa's beautiful, demon-like appearance, she naturally possessed an unusual allure that was difficult to describe with words to these young students who had been living in the ivory tower. Some of the younger teenagers or young men felt a great interest to the mature woman. This was the so-called fondness for an elder sister feeling.

Medusa appeared to have totally ignored all the numerous amazed gazes from around her. Her bewitching, pretty face was still as cold as ice. The cold aura spreading all over her body that completely turned others away also caused some of the bold fellows, who had the thought of striking up a conversation with her, to dismiss such a notion.

Although Medusa was able to ignore those gazes from around her, Xiao Yan still felt somewhat helpless. Since the former had been following him around closely, those gazes could not help but fall onto him. However, the gazes that turned to him were naturally not of amazement but of extremely pure envy and a kind of jealousy within a man's heart.

A person who was able to possess that kind of beauty, who could bring ruin to a country, was mostly a common enemy in the hearts of men.

TL: A beauty that could bring ruin to a country – idiom meaning

extremely beautiful to the point that she can manipulate kings and bring about destruction because of terrible decisions

Xiao Yan could only helplessly shake his head in the face of those gazes that contained traces of enmity. He would naturally not find fault with those students, who were younger than him. Therefore, after he had identified his direction, he waved at Medusa before a silver glow flashed under his feet. In an instant, he disappeared in front of the numerous stunned gazes around him.

Only after the two people disappeared was the surrounding quiet atmosphere broken by numerous hushed conversations.

“That fellow is really fast. These two people don’t appear to be students of the Inner Academy right?”

“However, that man seemed to look a little familiar?” Some of the people blinked their eyes uncertainly as they tried to recall with all their might.

“That’s right, I have remembered. Isn’t he the leader of ‘Pan’s Gate’, Xiao Yan?” A surprised cry suddenly sounded. Immediately, many people had a look of sudden understanding on their faces. Everyone looked at one another as excitement leaped within their eyes. Many people held a kind of admiration for this legendary mysterious person who usually could not be seen. In the big battle for the survival of the Inner Academy back then, this young man had basically turned the situation around. Such a dazzling battle result caused these students to feel their hot blood boil by just hearing about it.

“Tsk tsk, no wonder he is able to get such a beauty to follow beside him. He is actually senior Xiao Yan...” Quite a number of people quietly smacked their lips after learning of Xiao Yan’s identity. They immediately sighed quietly in their hearts. It seemed that only heroes were accompanied by beauties.

Xiao Yan naturally did not hear the various conversations of those students. After leaving the spot where everything occurred, he maneuvered at lightning-like speed to the area deep inside the Inner Academy where the First Elder Su Qian was located.

When Xiao Yan entered the study that Su Qian usually used, the latter also discovered his footsteps. He lifted his head to look at Xiao Yan who was the first to enter and could not help but smile. He was just about to get up when his gaze locked onto Medusa who was behind Xiao Yan.

“Ke ke, First Elder need not be worried. I have already settled the matter between the both of us.” Xiao Yan saw the suddenly solidifying of Su Qian’s face, and hurriedly opened his mouth to laugh. He knew that Su Qian was extremely afraid of Medusa within his heart. After all, this woman truly caused him to feel a sense of danger.

Su Qian’s tensed body only quietly relaxed a little after hearing this. Although most of his focus still remained on Medusa, he was able to reveal a smile on his face as he spoke, “You have been gone for a couple of months in one go. Were it not because I had confidence in you, I would have really thought that you had been quietly finished off by those fellows within the ‘Black-Corner Region’.”

Xiao Yan smiled and slowly walked into the study. After which, he sat down on the chair in front of Su Qian and spoke with a smile, “First Elder need not lie to me. How can the Inner Academy not sense it when I create such a big commotion within the ‘Black-Corner Region’?”

Su Qian was startled. He immediately could not help but laugh as he shook his head. He said, “Little fellow, you are indeed not an ordinary person. You have now occupied Feng City, set up an enormous medicinal pill auction, and attracted the attention of over half the ‘Black-Corner Region’. The Inner Academy naturally needed to pay some attention.”

Xiao Yan nodded. Being two enormous beings that were next to one another, the Inner Academy naturally needed to maintain an exceptional caution for that chaotic region. Originally, according to the Inner Academy plan, that Feng City was located far too close to the Inner Academy and it would not allow any faction within the ‘Black-Corner Region’ to occupy it. This was to avoid any unnecessary trouble that might appear in the future. However, due to Xiao Yan’s relationship, the Feng City ended up belonging to ‘Xiao Gate’. Despite this, some essential monitoring tactics were unavoidable. After all, Su Qian and the others needed to think of the safety

of the entire academy.

“What are your plans now that you have returned? However, strictly speaking, you are still a student of our Inner Academy. Looking at the date, you have yet to graduate. Yet, you have not been training within the Inner Academy. This kind of behavior is sufficient to allow me to give you the title of a ‘bad student.’” Su Qian first asked a question before immediately rolling his eyes at Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan gave an embarrassed smile. He was also somewhat helpless as he spoke with a bitter smile, “First Elder should also know that the Inner Academy no longer has much benefit to me anymore.”

Su Qian curled his mouth. Xiao Yan’s current strength would not be able to increase much within the Inner Academy. Even training all day long at the bottom of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ would not have much attraction to Xiao Yan who possessed the real ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. However, he still felt a little displeased when he thought about it. This fellow really did not engage in honest work.

“First Elder, I might perhaps return to the Jia Ma Empire within these two months.” Xiao Yan’s gaze looked at Su Qian as he spoke with an increasingly solemn expression.

Su Qian was slightly startled. He knit his brows slightly as he voiced his thoughts, “Are you returning to the Jia Ma Empire already? So soon?”

Xiao Yan sighed softly and spoke with a faint voice, “I have already left for three years. Some grudges must eventually be settled.”

“Ugh, naturally I can’t really say anything to stop you when it comes to such matters. Although your strength has currently soared, you should still act carefully. The Misty Cloud Sect has a very deep foundation within the Jia Ma Empire, and its strength is far too enormous. Moreover, that Yun Shan is a true elite Dou Zong. If you were to act carelessly, it is likely that you won’t have a chance at a comeback. I know that it is likely that you had the thought of increasing your strength and taking revenge when you arrived at the Jia Nan Academy back then. After these three years, you are already no longer that young man who was filled with vigor.” Su Qian

mused for a moment before speaking earnestly.

“Xiao Yan will remember First Elder’s teaching deep in my heart... thank you very much for your care during these past few years.” Xiao Yan felt a little touched in his heart when he heard Su Qian’s sincere reminder. He stood up and bowed to Su Qian with a solemn expression. The care and favor that Su Qian had given him these couple of years while he was in the academy was something that anyone could see. This favor was not something that he could slight.

“Ke ke, why are you saying all this? You are a student of our Inner Academy. All of these things are within my responsibility.” Su Qian smiled and waved his hand. He eyed the young face before suddenly sighing, “I really envy Yao zun-zhe. He was actually able to find such an outstanding disciple. Ke ke, honestly speaking, I also had such intentions back then...”

Xiao Yan was stunned when he heard this. He immediately spoke sincerely, “First Elder is also a good teacher whom one could not ask for more in Xiao Yan’s heart.”

Su Qian smiled and said, “You are about to leave. Is there anything that I can help you with?”

Xiao Yan rubbed his head and spoke with an embarrassed smile, “There is actually nothing much. It is just that I hope First Elder can help me look after ‘Xiao Gate’ after I leave. This is not a bad development place. Once I settle the matter in the Jia Ma Empire, I will formally send someone to take it over. However, before this, First Elder might need to help look after it. After all, you should also know about the kind of place the ‘Black-Corner Region’ is. Without me sitting around, it is likely that Feng City will be occupied by other factions within a short period of time.”

“Little fellow, you actually want me, a person from the Inner Academy, to help you look after a faction within the ‘Black-Corner Region’?” Su Qian felt neither able to laugh nor cry. However, he ended up nodding a moment later. He voiced his thoughts, “This is not too much trouble. The ‘Black-Corner Region’ has many big and small factions who could form a force that even the Jia Nan Academy would have difficulty contending

against if they united together, but it is fortunate that each of these fellows harbor sinister motives and have difficulty joining hands. Given our strength, taking care of 'Xiao Gate' should not be much of a problem."

"In that case, thank you very much, First Elder!" Xiao Yan rejoiced when he saw Su Qian nodding his head, and he cupped his hands together to thank with a grin.

Su Qian smiled and immediately said, "Although I know that returning to the Jia Ma Empire is an extremely important matter to you, you should not blame me for not providing you much help on this matter because of the special status of the Jia Nan Academy on the continent."

"Xiao Yan is not an unreasonable person. First Elder has already given me enough help." Xiao Yan laughed softly. He had naturally not dreamed that Su Qian would use the Jia Nan Academy's strength to help him seek revenge. After all, this academy did not belong to him alone.

Su Qian smiled and nodded as he looked at the cheerful smile on the delicate, handsome, young face. His finger gently knocked on the table. A moment later, he randomly said, "Of course, some elders, especially those like Lin Yan who have been promoted from a student, may be an Inner Academy Elder in name, but they are free individuals. Whatever they wish to do naturally does not have much relationship with us. This... do you understand?"

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard these words of Su Qian which were pointing in a certain direction. He immediately smiled and nodded.

"Since that is the case, thank you very much, First Elder!"

# Chapter 666: Settling Pan's Gate

Xiao Yan stood on the rock stairs after having exited First Elder Su Qian's study. He lifted his head to the sky and exhaled a breath of air. Medusa was following like a shadow behind him. Her pretty face was cold, and was unwilling to utter even a single word.

There would occasionally be some Inner Academy's Elders coming and going from the study. These people who possessed quite a high status within the Inner Academy, stopped their footsteps and eagerly chatted and smiled with Xiao Yan. They did not have the slightest Elder demeanor that they used when speaking with ordinary students. Of course, they clearly knew in their hearts that their so-called Elder status did not have the slightest use in the face of this young man in front of them.

Xiao Yan sent off those Elders who had greeted him before he quietly sighed in relief. It had only been a couple of months since they had met. Did they really need to be so warm and enthusiastic?

"Where do you need to go next?" An ice-cold voice containing some impatience sounded from behind Xiao Yan. It was actually Medusa who had waited for over half a day.

"I thought that you wanted to continue being a mute." Xiao Yan turned around and studied Medusa's vertical eyebrows on her pretty face while he spoke with a smile.

Medusa once again displayed a taut face in the face of Xiao Yan's teasing. The latter could only helplessly shake his head at this. He said, "Let's go. We will make a trip to 'Pan's Gate' first. I don't know when the next time I will return after making this trip to the Jia Ma Empire. Therefore, it is best that I settle everything properly."

Xiao Yan raised his feet and took the lead to walk outside after he spoke. Medusa was just like a ghost as she closely followed.

Xiao Yan's return to 'Pan's Gate' naturally caused 'Pan's Gate' to immediately boil. A countless number of people swarmed over from all directions. Their purpose was to give a reverent cheer to this mysterious

leader whom they could hardly see. Xiao Yan's current reputation within the Inner Academy had already reached a certain level. There was no student from any previous batch who could reach such a level.

Wu Hao, Hu Jia, Lin Yan, Xiao Yu, and other important people in the upper echelons of the 'Pan's Gate' once again gathered within the meeting room of 'Pan's Gate' because of Xiao Yan's return.

"You created such a big commotion the moment you returned. There is currently an unknown number of brothers from 'Pan's Gate' waiting outside for you to reveal yourself." Xiao Yu shook her head as she glanced at Xiao Yan, who was seated in the leader's seat, after hearing the noise float in from outside the hall.

Xiao Yan smiled. He did not expect that he would actually cause such a big commotion by just showing himself.

"You have disappeared for a couple of months again this time around. What do you want to do now that you are back?" Lin Yan made a big motion as he sat on his chair and rolled his eyes toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan was silent. He immediately spoke in a slow manner, "Everyone, this time around, I have returned to tell all of you that I may perhaps be leaving the Jia Nan Academy, and returning to the Jia Ma Empire within these two months."

The original joyous atmosphere within the hall immediately became still after Xiao Yan spoke. Everyone looked at one another. They also knew a little about Xiao Yan's past. Hence, they naturally knew what he intended to do when they heard him saying that he was returning to the Jia Ma Empire. Therefore, no one opened their mouths to hold him back.

Hu Jia was finally the first to speak after remaining quiet for a long while. "So soon?"

Xiao Yan bitterly laughed as he faced everyone who had suddenly become much quieter. He sighed, "That's right, I have already prepared everything. The Xiao clan is still waiting for me to return. I cannot delay any longer."

Everyone was silent. A moment later, numerous voices that appeared as though they had come to a prior agreement appeared, "I will leave with you!"

Xiao Yan was stunned. He looked at everyone who was looking at each other and felt his heart become warm. He smiled and said, "I also hope so. However, it is too risky returning to the Jia Ma Empire this time around. The strength of the Misty Cloud Sect might not be any weaker than the line-up of the strong people that Han Feng had gathered to launch a sneak attack on the academy two years ago. Moreover, what will happen to 'Pan's Gate' if all of you leave? This is our blood and sweat."

Wu Hao and Hu Jia immediately became dispirited when they heard this.

"I have agreed with you back then right?" Lin Yan spread his hands and smiled at Xiao Yan. "There is no longer much use for me to remain in the Inner Academy now. It might be better for me to leave and strike out with you."

Xiao Yan also hesitated for a moment when he saw Lin Yan's smiling face. He nodded his head and spoke, "I shall not say any arrogant words. I am reassured with your strength. Moreover, there is not much use for you to remain in 'Pan's Gate'. It is fine if you follow me."

Lin Yan's face could not resist twitching when he heard Xiao Yan's words. What did he mean by there was not much use for him to remain in 'Pan's Gate'? Was this fellow's words not too damaging?

"What about me? Even this fellow can go, don't tell me I can't?" A tender clear voice suddenly sounded. Xiao Yan looked at the white-clothed little girl who was standing with her hands by her waist. He could not help but hesitate for a moment. Although Zi Yan's strength was indeed stronger than Lin Yan, they were not going to go to the Jia Ma Empire for a tour. There was quite a lot of danger in it. He was not too willing for this cute, little girl to be dragged into it.

"Are you thinking of not helping me refine the 'Body Transformation Pill'? You liar, are you looking for a beating?" Zi Yan immediately raised her little eyebrows when she saw Xiao Yan hesitate. She clenched her little

fist and stared at Xiao Yan angrily. She had become vexed at having stayed in the Inner Academy for so many years. Naturally, she needed to grasp this opportunity to leave and venture into the outside world. Most importantly, she would not need to eat those awful medicinal ingredients by following beside Xiao Yan. Of course, she naturally hid these words in her heart. She definitely needed to look for the most righteous reason.

Xiao Yan felt neither able to laugh nor cry when faced with Zi Yan's cute angry stare. He mused for a moment before nodding his head and said, "It is fine if you follow me. However, you must agree that you will listen to everything I say. Otherwise, I will send you back!"

Although the little girl was naive in nature, there was no need to doubt her strength. It was likely that her frightening strength had increased greatly after not having met for two years. That kind of strange strength was likely something that would cause even an elite Dou Huang to suffer should they collide head on.

"Chi, I am not afraid of you." A gloating expression surfaced on Zi Yan's face when she heard Xiao Yan's reply. However, she curled her mouth and did not show any sign of weakness.

Xiao Yan once again turned his gaze to Hu Jia and Wu Hao by the side. He mused for a moment before slowly speaking, "I think that the both of you should have already heard some news. I have established a faction named 'Xiao Gate' within the 'Black-Corner Region'. The academy's 'Pan's Gate' might have limitless potential, but there is a natural drawback in its management. The students will leave after they graduate. Moreover, the 'Fire Energy' within the Inner Academy will also fail to provide for them the means to survive in the outside world. Hence, I wish for you to pay some attention. You can introduce those students who have graduated in the future into 'Xiao Gate'. Of course, this is entirely voluntarily. There is no need to try and force them if they are unwilling."

Xiao Yan had always viewed the potential of 'Pan's Gate' seriously. Most of those students who were able to enter the Inner Academy were people who possessed a great talent. If they were groomed properly, they would definitely gain achievements in the future. This would be an extremely

great potential strength if he was able to gather them.

“Joining ‘Xiao Gate’? Is this not a little inappropriate? Since the ‘Xiao Gate’ is established in the ‘Black-Corner Region’, it can be considered a faction of the ‘Black-Corner Region’. You should also be aware that the place is always a deep taboo among the students of the Jia Nan Academy.” Wu Hao and Hu Jia knit their brows, and voiced their thoughts when they heard this.

“Ke ke, I am naturally aware of this point. However there has been repeated friction between Jia Nan Academy and the ‘Black-Corner Region’. During such a time, guarding against the ‘Black-Corner Region’ is not a long term solution. If ‘Xiao Gate’ is able to expand in the future and quite a number of its members are students who graduated from the Inner Academy, do you think that this faction would act in a friendly or hostile manner when they meet groups from the Inner Academy who have gone out to train?” Xiao Yan laughed softly and slowly asked.

“Moreover, once ‘Xiao Gate’ gradually takes shape in the future, it might even be able to act as a middleman to regulate the relationship between the Jia Nan Academy and the ‘Black-Corner Region’.”

Wu Hao and Hu Jia frowned as they thought deeply. They naturally knew that these factions within the academy did not have the strictness of the sects and gangs in the outside world. No matter how one put it, they were still students. It was not possible to put in place traitor rules for the sect etc. This action of Xiao Yan was to turn ‘Pan’s Gate’ into a talent reservoir for ‘Xiao Gate’. Being a faction of the ‘Black-Corner Region’, the various rules within ‘Xiao Gate’ were definitely very strict. The overall mobilization ability of this kind of faction would naturally exceed ‘Pan’s Gate’ by ten or even a hundred times. It was not bad if they were currently able to make plans for the future when they had to leave the Jia Nan Academy.

“If you are worried, the two of you can temporarily manage the ‘Xiao Gate’, which lacks someone to manage it during this period that I am away. This way, the both of you will be better able to completely understand the implication of this.” Xiao Yan smiled as he suggested.

“You are the true leader of ‘Pan’s Gate’. You have the right to make such decisions... since you possess such a thinking, we will obey you.” Wu Hao and Hu Jia smiled. They mused for a moment before they nodded and spoke

“‘Pan’s Gate’ would have scattered were it not because of you guys. What has it got to do with me?” Xiao Yan sighed.

“Were it not because of the reputation that you had garnered, what use would there have been in simply relying on the two of us?” Wu Hao shook his head. Although Xiao Yan had seldom participated in matters regarding ‘Pan’s Gate’, they clearly knew that it was likely impossible for ‘Pan’s Gate’ to reach this size without Xiao Yan’s reputation. Xiao Yan’s position within the hearts of all the members of ‘Pan’s Gate’ could clearly be seen from the commotion that was created when Xiao Yan returned.

“The two of you need not flatter each other. Let’s do as Xiao Yan says with regards to this matter. Wu Hao and my strength are too weak, and we would likely not be of much help if we were to follow you to the Jia Ma Empire. Therefore, we will stay behind to manage ‘Pan’s Gate’ and try to understand ‘Xiao Gate’. We will come and help you when we breakthrough to the Dou Wang class.” Hu Jia rolled her eyes and immediately agreed.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He also slowly sighed in relief within his heart. The most important thing was that ‘Pan’s Gate’ had been settled properly. This indeed allowed him to release the heavy stone in his heart. Next, he would quietly wait for two months, and wait for Xiao Li to gather all the helpers on his end. After which, the return plan would formally begin!

# Chapter 667: Ten Exchanges

Xiao Yan completely relaxed after he had settled 'Pan's Gate' properly. Since Xiao Li still needed some time to gather the helpers on his end, the completely relaxed Xiao Yan did not make a move to leave the Inner Academy.

The news that Xiao Yan was about to leave was not spread around. This was because Wu Hao and the others knew that once this news was known by the people within 'Pan's Gate', it was unavoidable that many people would become disappointed. In any case, Xiao Yan frequently disappeared. It was a common matter for him to be missing for a couple of months. Hence, hiding it would also be very easy. It might be better to announce this news in the future when the time was ripe.

Xiao Yan calmly remained within the Inner Academy during this subsequent period of time. He would occasionally refine some low-tier medicinal pill in public and treated them as gifts which he gave to the members of the 'Pan's Gate' who formed an audience around him. Countless numbers of people would come and observe each time he refined medicinal pills. Although the number of alchemists the current 'Pan Gate' had recruited was not small, even the alchemists within 'Pan's Gate' felt great curiosity toward this leader who held the title of the top alchemist within the Inner Academy. After all, most of the new students had never seen the frequently praised medicinal pill refining competition between Xiao Yan and the leader of the 'Medicinal Gang' back then.

Lin Yan came and find him with a face full of sly smiles during one of the days while Xiao Yan was waiting idly. After which, the former dragged him out of 'Pan's Gate' and brought him to the ever noisy Fighting Arena of the Inner Academy.

The Inner Academy's Fighting Arena was the most popular place within the entire Inner Academy. There were a countless number of people who wipe off their perspiration in this place. The victor would enjoy the cheers, honor, or ranking while the loser could only withdraw in hopeless dejection before holding their anger in to train, anticipating the day that

they could get back at their opponent.

The enormous arena was, however, empty when Xiao Yan entered the place. The usual never-ending battles had disappeared. Instead, the surrounding high platforms were filled with densely packed human head. The private conversations were just like countless numbers of flies that were buzzing in the Fighting Arena.

This buzzing sound suddenly disappeared the moment Xiao Yan entered the area. Numerous gazes gradually became heated. A moment later a thunder-like cheer sounded beside his ear.

“You... what are you thinking of doing? Don’t tell me that you want to fight with me here?” The intense noise caused Xiao Yan to knit his brows as he helplessly spoke to Lin Yan beside him.

“I don’t wish to receive a beating. However, the one who wants to take a beating is someone else.” Lin Yan laughed out loud. He immediately raised his hands and clapped. A loud clapping sound appeared around the arena. Two human figures suddenly rushed out before flashing and appearing in the Fighting Arena below. Xiao Yan’s gaze drifted over. He was stunned to realize that the two people below were surprisingly Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing.

“These two fellows?” Xiao Yan asked in a stunned manner while observing Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing’s eager gazes as they raised their heads below.

“I know that you should require quite a number of helpers when you return to the Jia Ma Empire this time around. Hence, I have told these two fellows about your issue. Of course, I did not reveal any intention of inviting them. However, these two fellows volunteered by saying that they will also follow you to the Jia Ma Empire to experience the so-called Misty Cloud Sect if you could defeat the two of them.” Lin Yan shrugged his shoulders and spoke with a smile.

Xiao Yan was startled. He immediately looked down at the two people with some surprise. It was quite normal for Lin Yan to follow him to the Jia Ma Empire. After all, the latter had already mentioned it back then.

However, these two fellows actually also...

“Hee hee, most of the old friends who were here back then have already left the Inner Academy. There is no longer much meaning to continue remaining here now. Actually, that group of fellows back then did admire you quite a bit. These two people may usually act very proud but they also possess the same thoughts toward you. From a certain point of view, they also think of you as someone they can befriend.” Lin Yan smiled and explained.

“If you also think that these two fellows are worth befriending, you should agree to their request. Moreover, you should not hold anything back and viciously give them a beating.”

“That’s right, Xiao Yan, beat these two fellows. These two people maintained the highest percentage of victory within the Fighting Arena. You are about to leave soon. Leave behind a mark that others will have difficulty exceeding. A young person should do some crazy things.” A laugh suddenly sounded from behind. Xiao Yan turned around and saw that it was actually Wu Hao, Xiao Yu, and a large group of people. From the looks of their expressions, it seemed that they were already aware of this long before.

Xiao Yan looked at the somewhat serious expression of Lin Yan and then the encouraging faces of Wu Hao and the others. He was dumbfounded. A moment later, he smiled and nodded before saying, “Since this is the case, I shall viciously flatten these two fellows. Actually, I had the desire to do this back then. However, I didn’t have the ability.”

Xiao Yan’s toes pressed on the ground after saying this. His body flipped over the guardrail and rushed down like a shadow, appearing in the arena in an instant.

Xiao Yan parted his mouth and smiled as he looked at the somewhat excited faces of the two of them. He clenched his fist and the sound of beans cracking began to appear.

A cheer that could move mountains and flip the seas sounded from the viewing gallery as Xiao Yan entered the arena. A single person fighting

against two Dou Wang class Inner Academy Elders. This extremely exciting line-up was something that rarely appeared within the Fighting Arena. The three people who had appeared were all the most outstanding people from the 'Strong Ranking' back then. Xiao Yan's current legendary hue within the Inner Academy was something that no one could match. Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing were also in the top three on the 'Strong Ranking' back then. Now, these two were among the Elders and their strength could not be underestimated. With the two of them joining hands, it was likely that they could barely fight against an elite Dou Huang.

"Xiao Yan, don't hold anything back this time around. Liu Qing and I will also unleash all of our strength." Lin Xiuya looked at the smiling face of the black-robed, young man who was standing straight in front of him as he laughed.

"We will be your fighters if you defeat the two of us!" Liu Qing said. His gaze was wild and hot as he observed Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan smiled. He immediately extended a hand sign toward the two of them and laughed, "Ten exchanges. If I am unable to dispatch the both of you in ten exchanges, it can be considered my loss!"

"Hee hee, how arrogant. Even the First Elder is present in this fight. Don't end up biting your tongue." Lin Xiuya pointed at a certain part of the viewing gallery as he chuckled.

Xiao Yan's gaze followed the direction that Lin Xiuya was pointing at and looked over. He did indeed see Su Qian and the Inner Academy's Elders sitting and waiting at that place. They smiled while looking at the arena below.

"You fellows... are you all so free?" Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head and turned around to look at the two people. He spoke with a grin, "However... it is still ten moves."

Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing raised their brows when they heard these words. They immediately laughed. Powerful Dou Qi suddenly surged out from their bodies. Each of them took one step to the side. Although this seemed like a random step, it caused surprise to flash across Xiao Yan's eyes. With

this standing position, these two fellows could simultaneously deal with attacks that the opponent unleashed from any angle. When had the cooperation between these two reached such a great degree?

“No wonder they dare be this arrogant. They have some cards up their sleeves.” Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. Dark-green Dou Qi seeped from every part of his body. After which, it galloped through his Qi Paths in a torrent-like manner. A powerful energy feeling filled every cell under Xiao Yan’s skin.

The cheers of the people in the surrounding viewing gallery became much louder as they experienced the three powerful auras that suddenly surged out. Many people’s faces were flushed from the excitement of witnessing a fierce competition.

“Are you ready?” Xiao Yan faced the other two and softly asked.

“Chi!”

Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing used their actions to reply to Xiao Yan’s question. The two figures shook and turned into two vague outlines which could not be separated. Finally, they turned into a somewhat mysterious arc as they rushed toward Xiao Yan.

“Quite a good speed.”

Xiao Yan smiled as he glanced at the two blurry figures that had rushed over. His body did not move. An instant later, two winds suddenly reached him. The sharp force carried an air-tearing ear-piercing sound. One came from above and the other below as they attacked Xiao Yan.

Lin Xiuya’s and Liu Qing’s attacking position were somewhat tricky. With one above and one below, they were attacking two spots which Xiao Yan would have difficulty managing. If Xiao Yan only defended against one location, he would definitely be struck from the other spot.

Under the focus of a countless number of gazes, the body of the statue like Xiao Yan suddenly shook as the wind from both fists were about to reach him. Immediately, everyone was stunned as they saw two illusionary feet drifting toward both sides. The two illusionary feet appeared to

become substance-like just as it was about to collide with Lin Xiuya's and Liu Qing's fist and instantly unleashed an extremely frightening energy.

The first exchange!

"Bang!"

A low, deep muffled sound appeared in the arena. A powerful force vented out in a torrent-like manner at that moment, causing Lin Xiuya's and Liu Qing's figure to explosively withdraw by over ten steps. They each left behind deep footprints each time their feet touched the ground.

"This fellow, what frightening speed and strength..." Liu Qing stabilized his body as a thought flashed across his heart. The pores all over his body suddenly shrank. Immediately, a black line abruptly flashed in his eyes as though it had shuttled through the gap in space.

Liu Qing's reaction was similarly quick when the black shadow surfaced. His feet stepped forward and his tall, strong figure swiftly withdrew.

The black figure surfaced and Xiao Yan smiled. His feet spread toward the swiftly withdrawing Liu Qing. Immediately, an invisible wild suction force surged out. Liu Qing swiftly withdrawing body immediately slowed under that fierce, wild suction force. However, without waiting for him to increase his strength to pull back, the suction force suddenly disappeared. A powerful pushing force quickly followed, shaking the figure until it moved back quickly. His feet also drew a long scar on the ground.

The second exchange!

Dou Qi surged out from Liu Qing's body and eliminated the chest tightness that was caused by the suction and convulsing force. He turned his head and took a glance at the boundary line, only two to three meters behind him. Some cold sweat involuntarily surfaced on his forehead. He was nearly thrown out of the boundary line.

"Now is not the time to rejoice."

A slight laugh was suddenly transmitted over just as Liu Qing sighed in relief. A faint thunder-like roar sounded and the black figure appeared in front of Liu Qing in a manner that once again caused everyone to be

stunned.

“Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw!”

Liu Qing’s expression sank upon seeing that Xiao Yan was about to approach him. His hand that was brewing Dou Qi was suddenly extended out. Dou Qi wrapped around his hand and dyed it into something like a metal-hand claw. It carried an air fluctuation as it violently clawed at Xiao Yan’s chest.

Xiao Yan did not dodge as he watched Liu Qing who had displayed his best move. His finger extended out in a strange manner. After which, it flicked a couple of times. The air that was carried by the flicking finger were like invisible cannonballs that struck repeatedly against Liu Qing’s hand claw, completely neutralizing the frightening force that it carried.

The third exchange!

Piercing pain was faintly transmitted from Liu Qing’s hand as he was continuously attacked by the air that Xiao Yan flicked over. However, he did not show any intentions of withdrawing his palm and pulling back. He carried a fierce aura and instantly pounced to the side of Xiao Yan’s hand. His claws suddenly changed its stance as he extended and firmly grabbed both of Xiao Yan’s hands.

“Do it!”

Liu Qing suddenly let out a low roar after grabbing both of Xiao Yan’s hands.

A wind blew passed Xiao Yan’s back as Liu Qing’s roar sounded. Lin Xiuya’s body flashed and appeared. His hands were clenched tightly as pale-green blades rotated around them unceasingly. Immediately, they became like sharp long spears that furiously smashed toward Xiao Yan’s back.

The sudden unexpected turn of events within the arena caused waves of exclamations to immediately appear in the viewing gallery. Now that Xiao Yan’s hands were being bound, it was likely that he would have difficulty escaping Lin Xiuya’s attack.

Lin Xiuya's blade-like hands were finally about to reach and heavily smash against Xiao Yan's back in front of a countless number of gazes. However, the moment he was about to strike, his hand strangely passed through the interior of Xiao Yan's body.

"Clamor..."

The strange scene caused an uproar to immediately appear in the entire arena.

"This fellow actually practiced the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' to such an extent huh..." Su Qian was surprised as he watched the strange scene below. He could not help but softly mutter under his breath.

Liu Xiuya's and Liu Qing's expressions changed drastically the instant that the former's hand passed through Xiao Yan's body. Liu Qing was the person who found it most incredulous. This was because he had clearly sensed that Xiao Yan was indeed firmly restrained by him an instant earlier. However, Xiao Yan had strangely disappeared an instant later.

"This should be the fifth exchange right?"

A somewhat icy hand had unknowingly and quietly pressed on their chest and back while the expression of the two were undergoing a drastic change. The faint iciness emitted caused all of the pores on the bodies of the two people to suddenly open wide. If a force was emitted in this position, it was likely that Liu Qing and Lin Xiuya would at least be seriously injured even if they did not die.

Lin Xiuya's and Liu Qing's body instantly stiffened as their fatal points were restrained. Perspiration flowed wildly from their foreheads. That fellow's speed... had already reached such a frightening level.

"Bang!"

A gentle force suddenly erupted and shook Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing out of the arena. After which, their bodies miserably rolled a couple of times before stabilizing.

"Is it over?"

The viewing gallery was completely silent. Only Xiao Yan's soft laughter sounded. Many people were unable to see what actually occurred in this battle. However, the unusual speed of Xiao Yan where he strangely appeared and disappeared in a flicker caused everyone to quietly feel shock.

The silence continued for a long time before it was eventually broken by an applause. Following which, a thunder-like applause which could move mountains and overturn the seas resounded like a bang!

Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing climbed up from the ground. They exchanged looks with each other, smiled bitterly, and shook their heads. The gap was too huge. There was basically not the slightest chance of comparison. They did not have the slight possibility of winning in front of such frightening speed.

"This fellow... is really too terrifying. Back then, I was still able to go all out until both of us were defeated with serious injuries. Now..." Liu Qing laughed bitterly.

Lin Xiuya's face was also filled with a bitter smile. Although Xiao Yan was outstanding then, he was merely able to cause Lin Xiuya to view him a little seriously. Who would have thought that in a mere two to three years, Lin Xiuya himself would have to look up to him...

"No wonder even an outstanding girl like Xun Er likes him... From the looks of it now, he does indeed have the qualification..." Lin Xiuya sighed softly in his heart as he studied the young man on the stage who was displaying a warm smile.

# Chapter 668: Tranquil

This battle, not surprisingly, became a topic that the people in the Inner Academy relished. The fight in the Fighting Arena that caused a countless number of people to be shocked ended in Xiao Yan's perfect victory.

Lin Xiuyan and Liu Qing were people whose names reverberated like thunder even among the new students within the Inner Academy. They were frightening existences who had dominated the top three on the 'Strong Ranking'. No one could replace them all the way until they detached from their student identities and became Inner Academy Elders. Hence, compared to them, Xiao Yan, who had been missing for two years, gave people a somewhat unrealistic feeling because of the rich legendary aura that had covered his name due to the influence of public opinion.

Although when Xiao Yan left the tower, he had fought with Lin Xiuya, at that time, it was merely a test and although some strong experts could see the differences in strength between the two, normal students didn't have the perception to see who was stronger in the quick exchange. As for the huge attack against the 'Black Alliance', although he had slain Han Feng who was at the Dou Huang stage, the act of him doing so was too shocking that it made people feel that it was unreal. Especially for people who didn't witness it first hand.

Although many people didn't expressed their dissenting feelings out loud, that thought remained in their hearts.

However, this fiery hot fight that had occurred in front of over half of the Inner Academy's student population caused that thought, which faintly existed in their hearts, to completely disappear...

The students of the Inner Academy were clearly aware of Lin Xiuya's and Liu Qing's strength. However, even the combination of these two was unable to last for ten exchanges against Xiao Yan's hands. This strength was sufficient to automatically swallow all the doubts about Xiao Yan into their stomach while being secretly shocked.

Hence, there were a countless number of students, who did not get

enough from the battle and spread the news to their fellow students despite it being a couple of days after the fiery hot battle that caused one's blood to be boil. Their faces would also reveal a reverence. A person who was able to establish a faction like 'Pan's Gate' was indeed no ordinary person.

The members of 'Pan's Gate' appeared even more excited in the face of the news spreading among other students. When they saw the other party's reverence upon mentioning this name, a name that carried a legendary feeling in their occasional conversations with those outside, they would pretend to pay no attention and wave their hands. They would immediately randomly mention that they had occasionally met this legendary figure from their mouths within 'Pan's Gate'. After which, if they were lucky, they would be given a pill when observing him refining medicinal pill. Each time this happened, the envy that appeared on the faces of those outsiders would cause their vanity to soar limitlessly.

Xiao Yan had once again hidden himself within 'Pan's Gate' as the place outside it descended into a fiery hot state because of the big fight in the Fighting Arena. Occasionally, Lin Yan, Lin Xiuya, and Liu Qing would make a trip over. However, most of the time, Xiao Yan was alone in the secret chamber refining medicinal pills or training.

Time gradually past amid these tranquil like days. Without realizing it, Xiao Yan had already stayed in the Inner Academy for nearly half a month. He had also received news that Xiao Li had brought him during this period of time. He was also making progress gathering helpers on his end. There were many experts within the 'Black-Corner Region'. However, attempting to gather these rebellious fellows under him not only required him to spend quite a bit of money but also required him to possess a strength that they were willing to submit to. These two things were things that 'Xiao Gate' currently possessed. Hence, quite a number of somewhat renowned experts within the 'Black-Corner Region' expressed quite a great interest to the recruitment of 'Xiao Gate'. According to this situation, it was likely that the expert line-up that 'Xiao Gate' gathered when the time came would exceed Xiao Yan's expectations.

Xiao Yan was looking down from a high vantage point from the roof of a building in 'Pan's Gate'. A moment later, some sound of footsteps slowly sounded behind him. He turned his head over and looked at Xiao Yu who was climbing up the stairs. He was just about to speak when his gaze swept toward a lovely, beautiful, young woman behind her.

"Xiao Mei?" The familiar face caused Xiao Yan to be startled as he immediately cried out with a smile.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge."

The young lady was wearing a pale-purple dress. Her lovely body curved in all the right places. Certain aspects of her young self possessed a graceful demeanor comparable to a matured woman. This was especially the case for her little face that was a mixture of enchantment and purity. It was able to emit a kind of unusual charm. It was likely that this kind of outstanding young lady possessed quite a number of suitors within the Inner Academy. However, at this moment, this young lady, who appeared quite cold in the eyes of many suitors, was calling out with a somewhat timid, soft voice.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. His gaze immediately turned to Xiao Yu as he said, "I have settled most of the things after staying in the Inner Academy for so long. I am thinking of going to train a little in the deep mountains during the remaining time. I will make another trip back to the Inner Academy to bring Lin Yan and the others away when second brother has settled the things on his end."

Xiao Yu was startled when she heard this. She frowned slightly and said, "Must you arrange your schedule until it is so tight?"

"The Misty Cloud Sect and Yun Shan are not ordinary enemies. Back then, all that I was thinking of when I was chased out of the Jia Ma Empire was to do everything to strengthen myself. Ke ke, after that, second brother came. Do you know that the me then had nearly lost my sense of reasoning and wished to immediately charge to the Jia Ma Empire upon hearing that the Xiao clan was nearly eliminated by the Misty Cloud Sect." Xiao Yan smiled. His voice, however, was calm without much fluctuation.

“However, I ended up enduring it at the last moment...”

Xiao Yan rubbed his nose and laughed softly, “This is because I know that with my strength two years ago, it was likely that my end would not be much different from back then even if I did return. Moreover, I might even end up fleeing in a more miserable state, chased away.

“Perhaps many people are surprised that I can reach this stage in three years. However, I don’t find it surprising. This is because the effort and pain that I have paid for is worth this reward.”

A bright smile surfaced on the young man’s face in front of her. Xiao Yu felt a gratuitous heartache. The blood feud of the clan was a heavy rock pressing on the hearts of every member of the Xiao clan. After which, the heavy burden of taking revenge and revitalizing the Xiao clan were all pressed on this fellow in front of her. From the beginning until the end, the young man who was called the trash of the clan back then did not utter a single complain.

Xiao Yu slowly walked to Xiao Yan’s front. She eyed this young man who had unknowingly become almost the same height as her. Her delicate hand suddenly rubbed the head of the former as she gently said, “Little pervert. Uncle Xiao was right about you back then. He always believed that you would become the most outstanding person of the Xiao clan. I, too, believe this now.”

Envy and dejection flashed across Xiao Mei’s bright beautiful eyes as she stood by the side and watched Xiao Yu who was performing such affectionate actions with Xiao Yan. Who said that a young lady did not yearn for love? With the reputation that Xiao Yan currently possessed within the Inner Academy, quite a number of young ladies with good talent and appearance held an admiration for him. There were also no shortage of young ladies who quietly flirted with him. The shadow which had originally existed deep within Xiao Mei’s heart also expanded. However, that single matter back then had completely resulted in her being only able to seal such a feeling within her heart. She already knew that even though they had already buried the hatchet, it was very difficult for both Xiao Yan and her to return to the kind of relationship they had in

the past.

From a certain point of view, Xiao Mei's and Xun Er's relationship with Xiao Yan stood on the same starting line back then. However, after they began to run, the route had suddenly changed the moment that Xiao Yan had fallen from being a genius to trash. The relationship between the two also changed drastically... resulting in the present where it was difficult for it to heal.

Xiao Yan was somewhat depressed at this action of Xiao Yu which appeared as though she was dealing with a child. He turned his head only to speak with dissatisfaction, "Who are you calling a little pervert?"

"Chi, back then, you barged into the place where I was bathing. Not only did your hands and legs act strangely, but you also yelled that you had charged in because you were panicking from being chased by a Magical Beast after everything had happened. Do you think that I am stupid. Being filled with terrible thoughts at such a young age, what else would you be other than a little pervert?" Xiao Yu's face was somewhat flushed red as she rolled her eyes and spoke with curled lips.

"Cough... I am innocent." Xiao Yan coughed intensely. His face had turned somewhat flushed for some unknown reason as he opened his mouth to defend against the accusations toward the actions he committed when he was young. On top of defending himself, his gaze quietly glanced toward a pair of sleek, delicate, sexy, long legs on the other side and involuntarily shook his head within his heart. He wondered just which man would benefit from such unforgettable legs.

Xiao Yan's gaze might be obscured but it was still discovered by the sensitive Xiao Yu. A faint bright-redness rushed on to her pretty face as she stared furiously at the former.

Xiao Yan smiled in an embarrassed manner. He eyed the somewhat flushed face of Xiao Yu and a slight warmth surged in his heart. He smiled slightly and spoke to the two of them, "I will send someone to inform all of you once I have settled the matter within the Jia Ma Empire. At that time, you can all return if you wish. Believe me, at that time, the

Xiao clan will become the strongest clan within the Jia Ma Empire!”

Xiao Yu and Xiao Mei nodded slightly as they watched that serious expression of Xiao Yan. They believed that Xiao Yan would definitely be able to fulfill his promise to them!

“Ke ke, it is already quite late. I also need to enter the mountains. I’m afraid that I will really be going to leave this place the next time I return.” Xiao Yan waved his hands to the two of them but did not delay the time any further. He acted free and easy as he headed to the descending stairs.

“Cousin brother Xiao Yan!” Xiao Mei tightly clenched her delicate hand when she saw that Xiao Yan was about to descend the stairs. Finally, she could not resist shouting out loud.

“Hmm?” Xiao Yan turned his head and his gaze swept toward the young lady.

“I’m sorry.” Xiao Mei’s little face was flushed. It was a moment later before she had summoned the courage to timidly speak with a soft voice.

Xiao Yan was startled. He immediately smiled and shook his head as he said, “We can be considered to be brothers and sisters who have grown up together. There is no need to say such words. I have already forgotten about the matter back then.” Xiao Yan did not stop after speaking. He turned around, descended the stairs, and disappeared in front of the gazes of the two woman.

The back of Xiao Mei’s teeth tightly bit her lower red lip as she watched the spot from which Xiao Yan disappeared. Her little face was somewhat pale. A moment later, spoke in a somewhat bitter soft voice, “Have you really forgotten...”

Xiao Yu sighed when she saw the dejected, bitter face of Xiao Mei. She pulled the former into an embrace as her delicate hand rubbed the smooth black hair of the former. Her gaze swept toward the spot where Xiao Yan had left and a faint bitter smile appeared on her pretty face. This fellow was really as stubborn as he had been in the past. Anyone who had hurt him would be completely expelled from his heart.

Xiao Yu vaguely felt some rejoice as she thought of this...

# Chapter 669: Fully Prepared

“Bang!”

The sudden loud sound of rolling-thunder appeared in the quiet mountain range that was covered in a dense, lush, green color, surprising a countless number of birds in the forest. The manner which those birds flapped their wings and flew high in the sky in all directions forboded that a great disaster was about to strike.

A mountain peak began to shake and fall at a certain spot in the mountain range. Huge rocks repeatedly rolled down from above, pressing against some of the enormous trees below until they were all broken. Numerous arm thick crack lines began to swiftly spread as the enormous rocks rolled down. Within a couple of minutes, a perfect mountain peak stopped just short of completely collapsing.

A black-robed human figure was flapping jade-green fire wings extruding from his back in the air above the mountain peak. His eyes studied the swaying mountain peak that was about to fall before he nodded his head with some satisfaction. Currently, the strength of this ‘Open Mountain Seal’ was indeed much stronger than before. Moreover, since this was only practice, the Dou Qi that was maneuvered was not at its full strength. It was difficult to imagine just how frightening the force would be if one were to unleash it to one’s full potential.

“Is this the ‘Open Mountain Seal’? It is indeed worthy of being a Di Class High Level Dou Technique.” A somewhat illusionary old figure suddenly appeared and stood suspended in the air beside the black-robed, young man. He eyed the mountain peak that was nearly destroyed below as he nodded his head with some surprise and inquired with a smile.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan nodded his head and smiled. He immediately asked, “Has teacher heard of this Dou Technique?”

“Ke ke, the ‘God Seal Technique’. How could I have not heard of such a great name? This set of Dou Technique is also not something that anyone within the clan of your little girlfriend can practice. The reason she could

obtain it was most likely because of her extraordinary status. However, it is really unexpected that she was able to give you such a rare Dou Technique.” Yao Lao laughed. He immediately seemed to have recalled something and involuntarily sighed.

“Back then, I was also quite interested in this set of hand seal Dou Techniques. Unfortunately, I was unable to obtain it. If one were to reach complete mastery of this set of Dou Techniques, it would not be overboard to say that one could destroy the mountains and boil the seas.”

“Unfortunately, there are only two hand seals of this hand seal Dou Technique within the scroll that Xun Er gave me.” Xiao Yan rubbed his head and replied in a somewhat embarrassed manner.

“You greedy little fellow. Just be content. Although this ‘God Seal Technique’ is a Di Class High Level Dou Technique, if one were able to practice it until the final seal and achieve the stage where each seal is connected to each other, it would likely be able to rival a Tian Class Dou Technique.” Yao Lao laughed as he reprimanded this young man. He said, “Even though the status of that little girl is extraordinary within the clan, it is likely that she has taken quite the risk by privately giving such a Dou Technique to you. That clan of hers regards these top level Dou Techniques very highly. Being able to give you two of the seals in the ‘God Seal Technique’ is likely already her limit.”

Xiao Yan let out an embarrassed laugh. He was merely careless mentioning it. Naturally, it was impossible for him to grumble about Xun Er. From the solemn expression she had when she gave him the ‘God Seal Technique’, it was obvious that she held it in extremely high regard. According to what was written on the scroll, just training the first seal, the ‘Open Mountain Seal’ would require one to at least be of the Dou Wang class. Given Xiao Yan’s current strength, he could only feel around this ‘Open Mountain Seal’. Hence, even if Xun Er had really gave him all of the ‘God Seal Technique’, it was likely that he could only salivate while looking at the seals beyond. Being able to see them but unable to practice them. This was an even greater torture.

“It has been at least half a month since I entered the mountains but

there is no news from second brother's end. Did some trouble occur?" Xiao Yan flapped the fire wings on his back and threw his gaze in the direction of the 'Black-Corner Region'. He could not help but frown as he spoke.

"It should be fine. If something were to happen, he would definitely have sent a signal to you." Yao Lao smiled and his face immediately became solemn as he spoke, "Now, you should place your attention on yourself. When contending with Yun Shan, it will be extremely difficult to kill him unless you have a powerful technique."

Xiao Yan withdrew his smile when this name that was wedged deep within Xiao Yan's memory was mentioned. He nodded slightly and mused, "Although my strength has soared during these three years, it is also impossible for that old fellow to remain at the same level. Moreover, the Misty Cloud Sect has stood in the Jia Ma Empire for so many years. It definitely possesses quite a strong foundation. The Dou Techniques that the old fellow knows will likely not be weak."

Back then, Xiao Yan was able to barely contend with Yun Shan for a couple of exchanges by relying on Yao Lao's strength but this was because the latter did not display many Dou Techniques. Once he unleashed Dou Techniques to accompany his originally extremely powerful strength, it was likely that Xiao Yan's ending would be quite miserable even with Yao Lao's help.

Currently, Xiao Yan's strength had soared and he also possessed powerful killing weapons like the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' as well as the 'God Seal Technique'. However, there was still some uncertainty if he wanted to rely on them to kill Yun Shan. After all, even though the Dou Zong class could not be considered an expert that could stand at the top of the pyramid if placed in the entire continent, they were experts that were only a little below that level. If one underestimated an expert at that level, it would undoubtedly cause oneself to experience a disaster. This was especially so for someone like Xiao Yan, whose level was far below that level.

However, Xiao Yan could not accept even the slightest uncertainty to

appear on this trip back to the Jia Ma Empire. Back then, he had been chased out of the Jia Ma Empire like a dog that had lost its home. After which, he had caused the Xiao clan to face such calamity. He might still be able to flee if he failed after returning this time around. However, what awaited the Xiao clan might be true extermination!

Hence, he must kill Yun Shan at all cost when he return the the Jia Ma Empire this time around!

Of course, if he were to include the two great fighting strength of Medusa and Yao Lao, it would definitely not be difficult to kill Yun Shan. Unfortunately, Xiao Yan did not have confidence to convince Medusa to help him fight against Yun Shan. Yao Lao might currently have the strength to contend with an elite Dou Zong but who could guarantee whether the Misty Cloud Sect would have a hidden super strong person?

From what Xiao Li had said, it was obvious that the Misty Cloud Sect was collaborating with the Hall of Souls. Therefore, Xiao Yan must plan for the worst. In the event of any accident occurring that would prevent Yao Lao from participating in the fight, Xiao Yan needed to be able to fight Yun Shan independently. Hence, he needed to enable himself to possess the strength to kill Yun Shan!

Yao Lao nodded slightly as he watched Xiao Yan's face which was gradually becoming cold and stern. He slowly said, "It is indeed extremely difficult for you to have absolute confidence in killing Yun Shan with your current strength. However, it is not totally impossible to do."

"What method does teacher have?" Xiao Yan was startled and he hurriedly inquired.

"Learn the second seal of the 'God Seal Technique'." Yao Lao laughed.

Xiao Yan immediately became dispirited when he heard this. He helplessly said, "Now, I have not even completely grasp the first seal. How can I master the second seal? Moreover, according to what Xun Er said, the second seal requires one to reach the Dou Huang class before one can practice it."

"Ke ke, in that case, there remains only the last possibility." Yao Lao

smiled. He waved his hand and a dense white colored flame curled and rose. He watched Xiao Yan who was deep in thought in front of him and laughed, "Merge three kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' and use the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame!'"

"An 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' that is merged from three kinds of 'Heavenly Flame'..." The expression on Xiao Yan's face changed rapidly. He knit his brows tightly. Being the creator of the 'Heavenly Flame' fire lotus, an attack that possessed the strongest and most frightening strength, he understood the danger and the instability of it extremely well. Back then, he had relied on his luck to control the equilibrium between two kinds of 'Heavenly Flames'. However, he had paid the price of nearly blowing himself to pieces. The merger of three kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' might appear to be simply adding one kind of 'Heavenly Flame' on top of it. However, the difficulty involved was something that Xiao Yan had a profound understanding of. One could unceremoniously say that the difficulty in attempting to merge three kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' was not any less than practicing the 'Open Mountain Seal'.

"If you are truly able to merge the three kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' into an 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame', there will no longer be any unexpected event occurring when you kill Yun Shan." Yao Lao smiled and spoke when he saw Xiao Yan tight frown.

"I... shall try." Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment but he could only helplessly nod his head. It was likely that he only had this method at this moment.

Yao Lao smiled and nodded. He said, "You need not be too anxious. Merge it if you can. If you really can't, then forget about it. At the very most, teacher will intervene at that time and kill Yun Shan."

Xiao Yan smiled. However, his heart knew that he should work hard in order to achieve true assurance...

After he possessed an aim, Xiao Yan began to try and merge these three kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' into the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' during the remaining period of time. However, as he had expected, it was indeed

extremely difficult to merge this thing. He tried a couple of experiments during this period of time but all of them ended up in failure. Moreover, he even received minor injuries during the intense explosion that was created when the 'Heavenly Flame' collided with one another.

Yao Lao was also helpless in the face of Xiao Yan's repeated failed attempts. This was not because Xiao Yan lacked the talent. Instead, this 'Heavenly Flame' merger was indeed difficult. He even thought that even at his peak back then, attempting to merge three kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' might well be an extremely difficult task. Moreover, although Xiao Yan was already in possession of two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame', the 'Bone Chilling Flame' did not belong to him. Even though Xiao Yan could use it, it was extremely difficult for him to reach the point where he had absolute control. However, this slight deviation in control possessed a critical consequence in this kind of merger that required extreme precision.

Yet, Xiao Yan did not appear overly anxious in the face of such repeated failures. This caused Yao Lao to put down the worry in his heart. He was actually afraid that this little fellow would come into a dead end under the pressure of time. This kind of 'Heavenly Flame' merger was not something that one could complete by being anxious. The calmer one was, the better the effect. If one was more anxious, one might lose more than what one would gain.

After one month of such repeated experiments without rest, there seemed to be some progress with the merger of these three kinds of 'Heavenly Flame'. However, a messenger bird came flying from the 'Black-Corner Region' at such a time, causing Xiao Yan to have no choice but to cease his experiment.

"Everything is in order, we can leave anytime!"

The note only had this one sentence. However this one sentence caused Xiao Yan to be silent for a long time. He immediately exhaled a long breath. He had waited three years for this day.

# Chapter 670: Leaving the Inner Academy

The originally remote area deep within the mountains not far from the Inner Academy, which was usually void of any people, had quite a number of human figures gathered at this moment. Numerous gazes were thrown at the smiling black-robed, young man in front. The slightly low atmosphere continued to linger due to the imminent parting of ways.

“Have you decided to leave today?” Su Qian looked at Xiao Yan in front of him and sighed.

“He he, the matter at second brother’s end is settled. It is time that I take my leave.” Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His gaze slowly swept over the familiar faces in this remote mountain area. A moment later, he laughed softly and said, “The reason I have called everyone here is because I don’t wish for the news of my departure to spread within the Inner Academy and cause everyone in ‘Pan’s Gate’ to be depressed.”

Wu Hao, Hu Jia, and the others nodded quietly. Xiao Yan’s imminent departure also caused them to feel somewhat depressed.

“First Elder, thank you for taking care of me these few years. Xiao Yan will not forget this favor.” Xiao Yan once again bowed to Su Qian and spoke sincerely.

Su Qian smiled and nodded. He immediately patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders and said, “Little fellow, you should be careful on this trip! I will send someone to take care of that ‘Xiao Gate’ of yours. You will definitely still be able to see a complete ‘Xiao Gate’ the next time that you return.”

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He took two steps back, cupped his hands toward everyone and said in a solemn voice, “Everyone, Xiao Yan will not forget our ties from living together for three years. As long as Xiao Yan is alive, anyone can come and look for me in the Jia Ma Empire if you need any help in the future!”

Xiao Yan’s words that carried a little of the temperament of the ‘Black-Corner Region’ caused everyone to be happy. The depressed atmosphere because of the separation had also become slightly more relaxed.

“Xiao Yan, we will go to the Jia Ma Empire to look for you once Hu Jia and I successfully breakthrough to the Dou Wang class. We will come and help you at that time!” A warm, gentle smile was revealed on Wu Hao’s face as he spoke.

“Xiao Yan will definite drink with all of you until we are drunk to apologize for having to leave in such a hurry today!” Xiao Yan laughed out loud.

“Can we leave already?” A cool, cold voice was transmitted from a treetop. Everyone lifted their heads and their hearts let out praise when they saw Medusa’s cold, glamorous, exquisite face. They hurriedly shifted their gazes away. This woman was someone whom even an expert like Su Qian was afraid of, much less everyone else.

Xiao Yan smiled and did not continue to delay after hearing Medusa’s urging. He cupped his hands toward everyone and spoke with clear laughter, “Everyone, take care. We will say goodbye here. Let’s meet in the future if we have the affinity to do so!” Xiao Yan turned his head to Lin Yan, Lin Xiu Ya, Liu Qing and Zi Yan by the side and waved his hand as he spoke.

“Let’s go!”

The four of them nodded their heads slightly when they heard Xiao Yan’s voice. They immediately cupped their hands toward everyone and their Dou Qi wings gradually surfaced on their backs. Their wings were flapped and their bodies slowly rose into the sky.

“Xiao Yan... be careful. Do not be reckless if you meet any problems!” Xiao Yu finally could not resist taking a step forward. She spoke with reddened eyes when she saw Xiao Yan summon his beautiful jade-green fire wings.

“Ke ke, relax. I will send someone to inform all of you once I have settled the issue within the Jia Ma Empire.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He immediately turned his body in a dashing manner and flapped his fire wings. Without any procrastination, he transformed into a dark-green fire figure that flew toward the deep mountains. After which, Medusa, Lin Yan,

Zi Yan and the two others followed close behind.

Everyone watched the human figures gradually disappear from sight and eventually withdrew their gazes a moment later. They sighed softly with one another. They knew that the danger that Xiao Yan faced when he returned to the Jia Ma Empire was quite great. The Misty Cloud Sect had stood in the Jia Ma Empire for many years. Its foundation was incomparably solid. Even though Xiao Yan had the help of a strong person like Medusa, it was likely that he would have difficulty obtaining an absolute advantage. What awaited Xiao Yan this time around might well be an extremely intense and fierce fight!

Victory or defeat all rest on Xiao Yan alone.

“First Elder, can Xiao Yan succeed this time around?” Hu Jia withdrew her gaze and suddenly asked in a soft voice. Everyone threw their gazes toward Su Qian, who was standing with his hands behind his back, when they heard this question.

“It is difficult to say...” Su Qian sighed and said, “The Jia Ma Empire is quite xenophobic. Hence, this resulted in their entire empire only possessing a single faction like the Misty Cloud Sect. Due to the long heritage of the Misty Cloud Sect, it could be considered quite a good faction even when placed in the south-western continent. Although Xiao Yan has an extraordinary training talent, his grounding is too weak. He might have gathered quite a number of people this time around but it is still unknown just who will be defeated.”

The expression of Wu Hao and the others became somewhat gloomy when they heard Su Qian speak in this manner. However, they also knew that it was useless regardless of how much they worried for Xiao Yan. Even if they followed Xiao Yan to the Jia Ma Empire, it was likely they would only end up being a burden.

“Ke ke, alright, all of you need not be worried. We will eventually know whether he succeed or fail in the future. If Xiao Yan really did destroy the Misty Cloud Sect, it is likely that his name will spread throughout this south-western part of the continent.” Su Qian laughed faintly. He

immediately turned his body around and slowly walked to where the Inner Academy was located. Behind him, Wu Hao and the others exchanged a look with each other before following with a depressed look.

“Little fellow, this time around, you either succeed or pay the price. You have to rely on yourself for everything. Hopefully, your good news will spread over a short period of time later...” Su Qian’s footsteps paused just as he was about to enter the forest. He once again turned around, looked in the direction in which Xiao Yan had disappeared in and sighed in his heart.

There were human figures moving on a mountain peak that was not far from Feng City within the ‘Black-Corner Region,’ a low beast roar occasionally sounded.

“Second leader, the troops from ‘Xiao Gate’ have been gathered. Adding this to the experts that we have gathered during this period of time as well as us three brothers, we have a total of eight expert Dou Wangs. Most of the rest are expert Dou Lings whom we have selected stringently according to the requirements. Not only were they not afraid to die but most of them are at the peak of the Dou Ling class.” A brawny man spoke in a deep voice to the man who was standing at the edge of the mountain peak.

The man slowly turned his head over when he heard the words of the brawny man. From his cold, stern manner, it was clearly Xiao Li who was gathering experts within Feng City. The latter glanced at the brawny man before nodding his head and said, “You have done quite well.”

Xiao Li’s gaze turned toward the slope of the mountain peak after speaking these words. There were over a hundred black figures quietly standing there. In front of these black figures were seven human figures with different heights and widths. By sensing the powerful aura that faintly seeped out from their bodies, these seven people were all actually experts of the Dou Wang class.

Despite so many people gathering on the mountain slope, the place was completely silent. A faint pressuring feeling covered their surroundings.

Even the beasts' roars that were emitted from the forest quietly became much weaker.

"Is there any news from the Dark Sky Sect, Luo Sha Gate, and Wild Lion Gang? Why have they not arrived?" Xiao Li withdrew his gaze from those black figures as he suddenly frowned and said.

Big Yao was about to reply after hearing this when a female laughter sounded in the sky, "Ke ke, little brother Xiao is really anxious. We would need at least a couple of months for this trip out of the 'Black-Corner Region'. If we don't make proper preparations, won't our old home be confiscated by others?"

A large wave of rushing wind swiftly arrived after the laughter sounded. Immediately, over ten enormous flying beasts flew over from the distant sky. Within a couple of blinks, the flying beasts paused at this mountain peak and numerous human figures came rushing down. Finally, they all scattered on the top of the trees around. At a vague glance, there were likely at least a hundred people. Each of them had an extraordinary aura. Clearly, they were all quite strong.

Three extremely powerful auras finally rushed down with flapping Dou Qi wings after the many black figures rushed down. Finally, they were suspended in the mid-air above the mountain top. Their gaze swept over the line-up behind Xiao Li and surprise flashed across their eyes. They smiled and said, "Little brother Xiao really has some ability. It is really unexpected that you are actually able to gather so many experts within just a month. How envious."

Xiao Li smiled and spoke in a somewhat unconcerned manner, "With my third brother's status as a tier 6 alchemist, it should not be surprising that he possesses such a gathering ability."

The eyes of Tie Wu and the other two flickered when they heard this. They immediately smiled and agreed, "Little brother Xiao is right. If chief Xiao is willing to announce his identity as a tier 6 alchemist, forget about a couple of Dou Wang, it is likely that even elite Dou Huangs would swarm over."

Xiao Li smiled and spoke in a faint voice, “May I know what is the strength of the people that the three of you have brought?”

Tie Wu, Old Yin Gu, and Su Mei exchanged glances with one another after hearing Xiao Li’s words. They immediately laughed and said, “Each of us have brought two expert Dou Wangs. Including ourselves, there are three elite Dou Huangs. The remainder are all elites within our faction. I think that they would definitely not be any weaker than the core disciples of the Misty Cloud Sect.”

“Six Dou Wangs? This does not appear to match the status of the three of you in the ‘Black-Corner Region’.” Xiao Li randomly smiled and replied. The Dark Sky Sect, Luo Sha Gate, and Wild Lion Gang were all top-tier factions within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. Now, their style of merely taking out two expert Dou Wang was indeed a little weak.

“Little brother Xiao must think about us. The ‘Black-Corner Region’ cannot be compared to other places. If we bring too many elites from our faction away, it is likely that our old home would have been cleared out by others when we return.” Su Mei and the other two helplessly said.

Xiao Li frowned and could only nod his head. These words were indeed true. Therefore, there was not much else he could say. It was fortunate that these three fellows were all experts at the Dou Huang class and could be considered to be the greatest help.

“Ke ke, little brother Xiao, our people have already arrived. May I know why chief Xiao has yet to appear?” Old Yin Gu laughed and suddenly asked as his gaze swept in all directions.

Su Mei and Tie Wu also threw their gazes toward Xiao Li after hearing Old Yin Gu’s words. This time around they were going to travel a great distance to the Jia Ma Empire to oppose a faction like the Misty Cloud Sect. If even Xiao Yan, this person in charge, was not around, they would not have the courage...

“I have already informed third brother, I think...” Xiao Li smiled. However, before he finished his sentence, a faint laugh swiftly transmitted from the sky before resounding across this mountain peak.

A wave of rushing wind sound soon followed not long after the laughter sounded. Immediately, a couple of human figures surfaced at the edge of the sky. Within a couple of blinks, they had flashed and appeared on the mountain peak.

The black-robed, young man at the front raised his head to Tie Wu and the others and laughed when the human figures appeared.

“Ke ke, I’m sorry for troubling everyone to wait here!”

# Chapter 671: Begin the Journey: Return to the Jia Ma Empire!

There was a slight change in the atmosphere on the mountain peak following the appearance of the black-robed, young man. Those black figures standing behind Xiao Li also turned their gaze to that back. At this moment, the originally quiet atmosphere became completely silent. A kind of unusual pressure covered the top of the mountain. Even the roar of the Magical Beasts in the forest had completely disappeared at this moment.

Tie Wu, Su Mei, and Old Yin Gu were quietly awed in their hearts as they looked at the smiling black-robed, young man. They withdrew a little of the smile on their faces. Although this young man's age might appear to be much younger than them, they had difficulty maintaining an absolute calm in front of him despite their ruthless characters, that had been honed within the 'Black-Corner Region'. This was because all of them clearly knew that this young man with a warm smile had caused an elite Dou Huang and an expert with half a foot into the Dou Zong class from the 'Black-Corner Region' to die in a miserable manner.

Hence, they might be able to speak in a cheerful and humorous manner in front of the cold, indifferent face of Xiao Li, but they had no choice but to brace their attention in front of this smiling young man, not daring to slight him even a little.

"You have finally rushed over."

It was likely that only Xiao Li could be unaffected. Therefore, he ignored that slight change in atmosphere and was the first to speak with a smile to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He immediately pointed toward Lin Yan, Zi Yan, and the three others behind him and grinned, "You should also recognize them. They are all my friends and can be considered to be helpers that I have gathered this time around."

Xiao Li was slightly happy when he heard this. With his eyesight, he

could naturally see that Lin Yan and the others were all quite strong. That Zi Yan, whose exterior appearance was that of a little girl, even caused him to have a feeling of being unable to see through her. This kind of feeling was something that Xiao Li had only sensed on Xiao Yan and this extremely cute little girl who appeared to be carved from jade among the Dou Wang class.

“These five people are experts whom I have gathered from within the ‘Black-Corner Region’ some time earlier. Their strengths are all at the Dou Wang class.” Xiao Li spoke with a smile as he pointed to the five human figures whose body was standing as straight as a spear on the slope as they emitted a sharp and stern aura.

“Aye, not bad...” Xiao Yan’s gaze swept over the five human figures. He nodded with satisfaction. The strength of these five people were around that of a six star Dou Wang. They could be considered strong people even when placed in the entire ‘Black-Corner Region’. According to Xiao Yan’s expectations, it was likely that their strength was already sufficient to contend with the so-called ‘Ten Strong’ within the Jia Ma Empire.

“Greetings to Chief Xiao!”

The cold, stern face troops revealed a somewhat stiff smile on their faces as they cried out in unison when they saw Xiao Yan looking over. These fellows were all extremely thorny figures within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. Despite this, they did not dare to slight Xiao Yan, who had killed the Blood Sect’s Fan Lao and Medicinal Emperor Han Feng. Strength was honored within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. This point had already been deeply entrenched within one’s bones. Hence, they might be able to deal with Xiao Li indifferently but they must abandon that haughtiness within their hearts and carefully handle the situation when they were in front of Xiao Yan.

“Ha ha, Xiao Yan will remember everyone’s favor in aiding me and will definitely give everyone a satisfactory reward once we are successful.” Xiao Yan smiled, cupped his hands together and spoke. In his heart, he clearly understood that it was only natural that these people wanted quite a rich reward for them to be able to take the risk of offending a great enemy like

the Misty Cloud Sect to help him. Therefore, saying any words of thanks could not inspire others like such a sentence could.

As expected, an excitement immediately surged up on the faces of the couple of elite Dou Wang upon hearing these words from Xiao Yan. They had taken such a big risk because of Xiao Yan's status as a tier 6 alchemist. If they were able to let Xiao Yan owe them a favor, their reward would naturally be rich beyond their imagination.

"As long as chief Xiao gives the order, we will kill the Misty Cloud Sect until blood forms a river regardless how strong that shitty sect is!" On top of being excited, the bloodthirsty words that were unique to the 'Black-Corner Region' were emitted from the mouths of the few expert Dou Wangs.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He pressed his palm down in the empty air and calmed them down. After which, he immediately turned his head to look at Old Yin Gu, Su Mei, and Wu Tie. A moment later, his gaze drifted toward the experts from the three factions on the treetop,

The heartbeat of Old Yin Gu and the other two increased a little when they saw Xiao Yan's gaze looking over. They could carelessly speak when facing Xiao Li. However, in front of the former, they always sensed a pressure that was difficult to describe. This kind of pressure caused them to feel quite uneasy.

"Cough, Chief Xiao, the journey to the Jia Ma Empire this time around can be said to be extremely long. Just the trip there and back would require a couple of months without mentioning the additional time needed on top of it. Ke ke, you should also be aware of the situation within the 'Black-Corner Region'. There is an unknown number of people staring at our properties. If we don't leave behind a somewhat strong strength within our factions, it is likely that we will be left with nothing." Old Yin Gu appeared to have sensed the frown on Xiao Yan's forehead as he let out a dry cough and hurriedly spoke. While he spoke, he also secretly glanced at the graceful figured Queen Medusa, who was standing a short distance behind Xiao Yan. He only sighed in relief within his heart when he did not find any unusual movement on the other side. He really felt a

terror deep within his heart toward this true elite Dou Zong.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded when he heard this. He immediately said, “The three of you have already fulfilled our agreement back then by personally making the trip. Xiao Yan will naturally not blame you for anything.”

Old Yin Gu and the other others secretly released the huge stone that was hanging in their hearts after hearing Xiao Yan’s words. They were worried just what kind of difficult situation they would end up in when Xiao Yan would demand they send more people.

“However...” The hearts of the three of them were once again raised at Xiao Yan’s next sentence.

“The three of you should know that there is some danger in this operation. Moreover, this matter is extremely important to Xiao Yan. Hence, I hope that the three of you will not adopt an attitude of randomly dispatching the matter when you fight with the Misty Cloud Sect. Otherwise...” Xiao Yan smiled faintly but a fierce, stern glint flashed across his dark-black eyes. His calm voice also gained an additional coldness.

Although everything was currently prepared, Xiao Yan clearly understood Old Yin Gu and these other fellows. If he did not knock and shake them a little, it was likely that they would really quietly play some tricks. It was just as he had said. This trip back to the Jia Ma Empire was really too important to him. He would not allow any little mistake to cause him to lose everything. Xiao Yan would naturally not be merciful to anyone who would intervene with the implementation of his plan. The current him was no longer that ignorant young man he was back then!

Old Yin Gu, Su Mei, and Tie Wu also understood the warning and coldness within Xiao Yan’s voice. Their expressions immediately changed slightly.

Old Yin Gu laughed dryly and was the first to open his mouth to speak, “Chief Xiao, you can rest assured that since we have promised to lend you a hand, we are all in the same boat. We will definitely not do something stupid like chiseling the boat and sinking together.”

“Ke ke, it is naturally the best this way. Once the matter succeed, Xiao Yan will definitely hand over the reward that all of you want. There will not be any tardiness!” A warm smile once again surfaced on Xiao Yan’s face as he slowly spoke after hearing this.

The three of them accompanied Xiao Yan by smiling as they saw how the latter’s face changed as fast as the flipping of a book. However, they quietly clicked their tongue in their hearts. In what way did this fellow act like a twenty plus year old when he dealt with issues? He was almost no different than those old foxes who had muddled around for half their lives.

Xiao Yan only turned his head around after shaking the three people. His gaze looked at Xiao Li. Both their hearts shared the same thought as they smiled at each other.

“The route to the Jia Ma Empire this time around is extremely far. It is impossible for even an expert Dou Wang to use Dou Qi wings to hurry and cover the distance. Moreover, there are quite a number of Dou Ling class people with us.” Xiao Li finally opened his mouth and spoke after seeing Xiao Yan completely stabilize the situation.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. Back then, he had also spent quite a lot of time when he was traveling from the Jia Ma Empire to the ‘Black-Corner Region’. He naturally understood just how far the journey between the two was. With his current strength, he would need to rest a couple of times along the way in order to complete it.”

“Ke ke, if we were to walk on the ground to the Jia Ma Empire, it is likely that we will not be able to arrive within half a year.” Xiao Li laughed. He immediately blew a sharp whistle with his mouth. When the whistle was emitted, waves of low, deep beast roars immediately sounded. After which, thousands of birds took off from the forest as ten enormous fierce-looking Magical Beast flapped their huge flesh wings, carrying a wave of wild wind as they swiftly rose toward the mountain peak and emitted a low, beast roar toward Xiao Li.

“These ten Tiger Eagle Beasts are all true rank 4 Magical Beast. Not only

are they fierce but they also specialize in flying extremely long distances. However, these things are too proud to be tamed. I have spent quite a hefty price in order to exchange for them from the 'Beast Taming Gate'." Xiao Li smiled and spoke as he pointed at the ten large-sized Magical Beast that appeared to be both a tiger and an eagle.

"Rank 4 Magical Beast huh..." Xiao Yan felt somewhat surprised when he heard this. Did that not mean that these ten Tiger Eagle Beast were equivalent to ten strong Dou Lings?

"All the various things that we need along the way have been arranged. We can begin flying toward the Jia Ma Empire anytime." Xiao Li smiled. His gaze faintly revealed some wild heat and anxiety.

"Since that is the case..." Xiao Yan grinned. An unusual heat also surged up his dark-black eyes as his voice suddenly became louder, "What are we still waiting for? Everyone, get on the Tiger Eagle Beast immediately. We will be hurrying to the Jia Ma Empire starting from today!"

Xiao Yan's words had just sounded when the over hundred black figures, who were standing like wooden poles on the mountain slope, began to orderly hurry forward. They immediately landed on those Tiger Eagle Beast creeping on the ground. The experts from the Dark Sky Sect and the other two factions also rushed to the flying beasts lingering in the air.

Xiao Li waited for everyone to take their positions before his mouth once again emitted the sharp whistle. Immediately, the ten Tiger Eagle Magical Beasts stood up with a low roar. They flapped their wide wings, carrying a wild wild as they slowly ascended into the sky.

The wild wind took shape in the sky. Xiao Yan raised his head and watched the ten enormous flying Magical Beast above and a boiling hot feeling suddenly surged up in his chest. With a low cry, he flapped the jade-green flame wings on his back and immediately rushed toward the enormous head of a Tiger Eagle Beast in a lightning like manner. Queen Medusa, Xiao Li, and the others swiftly rushed over from behind him.

Xiao Yan stood on the head of the Tiger Eagle Beast. The wind blowing from the front caused his clothes to flutter. He lowered his head and

watched the increasingly smaller ground before slowly lifting it once again. Those eyes of his stared at the distant northern sky. The corner of his mouth was slowly pulled into a dark and cold smile.

“Jia Ma Empire, Misty Cloud Sect, Xiao Yan is back!”

# Chapter 672: Activity of the Misty Cloud Sect

There were three human figures sitting in a heavily guarded hall in the enormous mansion of the Primer clan situated in the capital of the Jia Ma Empire. The atmosphere there was somewhat heavy.

“Ya Fei, has something happened for you to call us all here so anxiously?” An old man who was wearing a pale-blue robe in the lower part of the hall knit his brows slightly and looked at the beautiful lady seated on the leader’s seat before taking the lead to speak.

“Ke ke, that’s right. Ya Fei xiao-jie, we have coincidentally received an assignment today and we are in a rush.” A man was seated in a wheelchair on the other side of the hall. His gaze was also looking at the lady seated on the leader’s seat as he smiled and spoke

TL: xiao-jie – a form of address to a lady (daughter) of a rich and powerful family

“Big brother Xiao Ding, you can just call me Ya Fei. This form of address of yours appear much too stranger like.” The lady in the leader’s seat had a jade-like face and picture like eyes. The smiling arc that was lifted on the corner of her sleek red mouth easily filled her with a mature and enchanting style, appearing extremely eye-catching. This familiar face was naturally Ya Fei, who had quite a good relationship with Xiao Yan.

Hearing the way she addressed the man, he was surprisingly Xiao Yan’s big brother, Xiao Ding!

“The main reason for me to hurriedly summon Old Hai and Xiao Ding over is because I have received some bad news.” Ya Fei delicate finger pressed softly on the table as she knit her eyebrows slightly and said, “According to the information, the Misty Cloud Sect is currently having quite the big activity. The last time the Misty Cloud Sect had any activity was when it attacked the Xiao clan. It is the same this time around. I think their aim is quite big.”

While she mentioned the part about attacking the Xiao clan, Ya Fei's gaze also gently drifted toward Xiao Ding who was seated in a wheelchair. However, the latter did not show the slightest movement. He still maintained the spring like smile. That manner was as though the issue of the Xiao clan being nearly exterminated back then had not the slightest relationship with him.

"There is movement in the Misty Cloud Sect again?" Hai Bodong by his side frowned intently when he heard this. He said, "What do they wish to do this time around?"

"I am temporarily unaware of their motive. Moreover, their activity is extremely secretive. If my current information network had not already extended into the Misty Cloud Sect, it is likely that I would have difficulty sensing it." Ya Fei shook her head as she opened her red lips slightly to speak.

"Don't tell me that they are targeting us? How did they discover that the remnant members of the Xiao clan are protected by our Primer clan?" Hai Bodong frowned intently and spoke in a deep voice.

"This is only still a guess. All the activities of the Misty Cloud Sect these years are increasingly unlike the old sect which maintained an aloof status. I think that even the imperial family has also been studying each and every action of theirs. However, Yun Shan's strength is really too strong. Hence, even the imperial family doesn't dare make any unusual movements in fear of provoking this enormous being, which is in such close proximity, creating a situation which they will have difficulty resolving." Ya Fei voiced her thoughts.

"The Primer clan is one of the three large clans of the Jia Ma Empire with an enormous implication, completely unlike our Xiao clan back then. If the Misty Cloud Sect wishes to act against you, it would definitely result in instability within the empire. The other factions are unlikely to just sit there and allow the Primer clan to be destroyed by the Misty Cloud Sect. Of course, there is an exception to everything. It is just as all of you have said. The Misty Cloud Sect is originally the strongest faction within the Jia Ma Empire. Now, with the addition of an expert like Yun Shan, the other

factions would be a little afraid even if they desired to help.” Xiao Ding, who was seated in the wheelchair, crossed his ten fingers in front of him and slowly spoke.

“These words have some logic to them. However, we should always be careful. Xiao Ding, you should get your clan members to avoid going out as much as possible during this period of time. The Primer clan also needs to quietly become alert. Should the Misty Cloud Sect really start any activity, we would at least not be caught off-guard.” Hai Bodong paced up and down the hall for awhile before speaking in a deep voice.

“Yes.” Xiao Ding nodded his head slightly. He watched the tight frown on Hai Bodong’s old face and sighed softly, “Old Hai, I’m really sorry. It is all because of our Xiao clan. We have actually implicated your Primer clan.”

“Why are you still saying this now?” Hai Bodong waved his hand toward Xiao Ding. He spoke with a faint smile, “Moreover, we are not really helping you without reason. You can treat it as the old me is using my old life and the Primer clan as stakes in a bet.”

“Old Hai is betting that my third brother will be able to return and defeat the Misty Cloud Sect? If that is the case, that is indeed a very bold gamble.” Xiao Ding laughed softly as he replied.

“In that case, do you believe that the little fellow will return and turn the tide?” Hai Bodong grinned and returned the question.

Xiao Ding rubbed his nose and smiled. He softly said, “I naturally believe so. Moreover, I can even sense that this day might not be too far away...”

“The old me also share your thoughts. Ha ha.”

A smile also rose on Ya Fei’s lips as she watched the two smiling figures. A black-robed, young man with a pair of dark-black eyes slowly surfaced in her head.

“Little fellow, I also believe that you will return to the Jia Ma Empire as a strong person!”

In a remote hall at the back mountain of the Misty Cloud Sect.

The empty hall was completely silent. There was an extremely beautiful and striking white-clothed woman located in the middle of the hall. She quietly sat on the futon and had her eyes tightly shut.

“Creak...”

The sound of a door being opened suddenly sounded within the spacious large hall. Immediately, the tightly shut door was slowly opened and a thread of moonlight followed the gap and spread into the hall. Finally, it wrapped around the white-clothed woman, much like a faint, silver, yarn layer, causing the latter to be like a fairy in the sky who was filled with a nobility and ethereal feeling that was difficult to describe.

An old figure slowly walked in after the door opened. Finally, his footsteps halted at a spot not far from the white-clothed woman. He spoke with a faint smile, “Yun-er, are you still angry with teacher?”

The white-clothed woman slowly opened her tightly shut eyes when she heard the old voice. Those gem-like pupils revealed an unusual charm under the reflection of the moonlight, setting off that noble, ethereal, indifferent, pretty face, causing one to feel humbled. This familiar face was surprisingly the Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect back then, Yun Yun!

The three years did not leave behind the slightest trace on her face. Instead, her noble aura became increasingly richer as it was brewed by time. However, under the nobility hid a little coldness that she did not possess back then.

“Teacher, why are you free to come to this ‘Forbidden Hall’?” The white-clothed woman glanced at the old man in front of her but she did not stand up. Her voice contained some self-mocking.

“Ugh, Yun-er, you still possessed such a temper. You have forgotten how your teacher has trained you because of a Xiao clan that is completely unrelated to you?” The old man sighed as he spoke in a manner that was a little resentful that she did not meet his expectations.

“Yun Yun naturally remembered teacher’s education deep within my heart.” Yun Yun’s pretty face was somewhat bitter. A moment later, she muttered softly, “However, why do you need to treat a little Xiao clan in

this manner? By doing this, you and Xiao... there will be a point where neither of you will rest until the other die.”

“So be it. He is but a younger generation who thinks that he has some talent. Can he really cause I, Yun Shan, to be afraid?” The old man’s face immediately became ugly when he heard Yun Yun mention that person once again. He swung his sleeves and spoke with a cold smile, “That fellow was chased out of the Jia Ma Empire three years ago. However, there are no news of that fellow from the few neighboring countries during these three years. He might have already died somewhere.”

Yun Yun shook her head when she heard Yun Shan’s words and ceased speaking.

“Alright, I am not here to discuss that fellow with you. As long as you forget about that brat, I will once again let you ascend to the position of sect leader. However, looking at it now, you are still unable to forget him.” Yun Shan studied the atmosphere with a little frustration. He also frowned and spoke in a dark, cold voice, “I will definitely not let off that Xiao clan. I have already received information that the remnant members of the Xiao clan should be protected by the Primer clan. That old fellow Hai Bodong has been hindering my Misty Cloud Sect time and time again. Does he really think that the old me cannot finish him off? This time around, I will let the Xiao clan be completely eliminated from the Jia Ma Empire!”

“You want to act against the Primer clan?” Yun Yun was immediately startled when she heard this. There was some involuntary anger in her tone, “The Primer clan is one of the three large clans within the Jia Ma Empire. If the Misty Cloud Sect acts against them, we will definitely arouse the displeasure of many factions. Does teacher want to place the Misty Cloud Sect in a position that opposes everyone in the Jia Ma Empire?”

“They are but a bunch of dancing clowns.” Disdain flashed across Yun Shan’s old face as he coldly laughed, “If they really want to intervene, then it’s just as well. The Jia Ma Empire has been peaceful for too long. It is considered not bad for our Misty Cloud Sect to give it a good wash.”

Yun Yun was shocked as she observed Yun Shan whose character had changed drastically from before. She really felt a great disbelief. The teacher whom she had respected the most back then had actually turned into this manner.

“Teacher, if you continue to remain unrepentant, the Misty Cloud Sect will sooner or later be ruined in your hands!” Yun Yun clenched her silver teeth and spoke furiously.

“Yun Yun, you are becoming bolder and bolder now! You actually dare to speak to me in this manner!” Yun Shan’s expression turned cold as he reprimanded. He immediately swung his sleeves, turned around, and walked out of the hall, “The Misty Cloud Sect will not be destroyed in my hands. Instead, I will lead it to a height that never existed in the past. That level is something that none of the previous sect leaders of the Misty Cloud Sect ever reached!”

Yun Shan paused just as he was about to exit the hall. He coldly said, “Additionally, it is best that you forget about that brat. Don’t hold the wishful thinking that he will still return to the Jia Ma Empire. Even if he did return, the first thing the old me would do is take his little life. Moreover, the Misty Cloud Sect will destroy his entire clan. You, being the sect leader of the Misty Cloud Sect, means that you and him is an impossibility!”

Yun Shan stepped forward after saying this and walked out of the hall. He waved his sleeves and the large, thick door shut tightly with a bang.

Yun Yun clenched her fist tightly as she watched the tightly shut door. A moment later, some emotional pain and dejection surfaced on her brilliantly beautiful face...

# Chapter 673: Thousands of Kilometers Away

Languid clouds lazily hung in the endless blue sky. Only the occasional blowing wind caused a slight shift. Sunlight scattered down from the cloud layer and landed on those mountains and hills, giving them an extra warmth.

The sound of waves of blowing wild wind suddenly appeared in the silent sky. Immediately, some small, black dots appeared at the edge of the sky. A moment later, the black dots drifted over with the wind before transforming into ten plus flying Magical Beast that emitted a ferocious aura. They carried a low roar as they whizzed by...

A black-robed, young man was seated cross-legged on the enormous head of the leading flying Magical Beast. A faint jade-green Dou Qi surfaced on his body, blocking the wild wind that was blowing toward him from the front. He himself was able to enter into his training mode without any disturbance.

The black-robed, young man's training continued for a long time before his eyes moved slightly. He immediately opened them and his gaze swept over the extremely small ground below him. He turned his head and inquired from the people behind him, "Where are we now?"

Hearing Xiao Yan's words, Xiao Li, who had been chatting and laughing with Lin Yan and the others, turned his head around. He swiftly took out a map from his storage ring and smiled as he said, "We are in a small country called Wan Yan. This place is already very far from the 'Black-Corner Region'. According to our speed, we should be able to reach the borders of the Jia Ma Empire in another month's time."

"There is still another month huh..." Xiao Yan muttered. His gaze immediately turned to Lin Yan and the others. During this one month of traveling, they had spent most of their time on the Tiger Eagle Beast despite them occasionally descending to rest. This kind of dull traveling was not something that an ordinary person could endure. Fortunately,

however, most of the people on this trip were strong. They could still rely on training to spend their time if they were really bored.

“Ugh, if this trip were to continue for another few months, it is likely that I will definitely become crazy.” Lin Yan spoke with a helpless face when he saw Xiao Yan’s gaze looking over.

Xiao Yan smiled. His gaze swept in all directions and immediately said, “Where is Zi Yan? Don’t tell me that she cannot endure it any longer and ran away by herself?”

“Ah. That little girl cannot sit still. She has already run toward the front. However, Medusa is following her.” Xiao Li nodded her head, moved closer to Xiao Yan and clicked his tongue in amazement as he spoke, “It is really unexpected that the icy-cold woman actually treats Zi Yan quite well. She actually volunteered to follow and protect her.”

“Let them do as they like. Zi Yan should not get into any trouble with Cai Lin around.” Xiao Yan smiled. His gaze swept over the ten plus Tiger Eagle Beast behind him and said, “No accidents have happened right?”

“Yes, everything is proceeding smoothly. However, with such a large group of people flying through the sky, we will unavoidably cause some commotion when we fly over some areas where some factions are located. If they possess a strong person, they will come up and investigate. Moreover, some of those fellows even invited us to go down and gather with them when they saw that this group of ours is so strong.” Xiao Li laughed as he replied.

“Try to avoid getting into a conflict with these factions. We are only passing by and will not intervene no matter what problem we meet. Just reject those people who have extended an invitation to us.” Xiao Yan nodded slightly and spoke after musing for a moment. This journey from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ to the Jia Ma Empire was thousands of kilometers in distance. There were all sorts of different factions filling the distance between them. If they were to get involved in some trouble, it was likely that their journey would be greatly delayed. This was something that Xiao Yan, who was in a hurry to the Jia Ma Empire, did not wish to see.

“Ke ke, I am naturally aware of this. Moreover, I have also informed Old Yin Gu and the others to treat those experts, who have come to observe, with respect before sending them off.” Xiao Li laughed and said.

Xiao Yan nodded. He stood up and his gaze looked at the distant northern sky. A moment later, he exhaled a breath and said, “I wonder just how big brother and the others are...”

Xiao Li also became momentarily silent when he heard this. He immediately patted Xiao Yan’s shoulder and comforted, “Relax, although big brother is weaker than us, he has many thoughts and a never-ending number of ideas. It is not so easy for the Misty Cloud Sect to capture him.”

Xiao Yan nodded slightly and sighed, “Hopefully.”

“That’s right, do you have the feeling of advancing to a Dou Huang during your training in this period of time.” Xiao Li laughed and changed the topic when he sensed the pressuring atmosphere.

“How can it be so easy...” Xiao Yan shook his head with a bitter smile. He had been extremely hardworking in training for nearly a month. Unfortunately, that feeling of touching the Dou Huang barrier still did not appear. This caused him to feel somewhat helpless. Attempting to advance from a Dou Wang to a Dou Huang was indeed not an easy task.

“Can’t you use medicinal pills to raise your strength? I seem to recall that an expert Dou Wang is able to consume one ‘Dou Spirit Pill’ to raise his strength by one star, right? Given your current strength, won’t you coincidentally be able to breakthrough if you consume one pill?” Xiao Li fondled his chin and reasoned out.

“The ‘Dou Spirit Pill’ will enable the Dou Wang who consumes it to raise his strength by one star. However, it does not have much use to me. Moreover, that medicinal pill is unable to let a peak Dou Wang expert to breakthrough the barrier. Otherwise, if everyone who reached the peak of the Dou Wang class were to consume a ‘Dou Spirit Pill’, won’t it enable those people to easily breakthrough to the Dou Huang class?” Xiao Yan shook his head and replied helplessly. This method was something he had thought of long ago. However, even Yao Lao had said that the effect of the

'Dou Spirit Pill' was no longer that great with his current strength. He couldn't rely on it to breakthrough to the Dou Huang class.

"If it is not possible to use the 'Dou Spirit Pill', what about other medicinal pills?"

"It is likely that I cannot rely on any external force for my breakthrough this time around..." Xiao Yan shook his head. Although being underground for two years had enabled his strength to soar greatly, it had also left behind some hazards. Now, he was trying his best to remove these hazards. If he were to use any external force to cause his strength to soar at this moment, it was likely that he would be able to obtain quite a strong force within a short period of time. However, it might well become a barrier for him to enter an even higher level in the future. This kind of thing was little different than overdrafting his strength and it was something Xiao Yan did not wish to do.

"In that case, you can only take things slowly. One cannot hurry with this kind of thing..." Xiao Li could only helplessly shake his head when his suggestion was rejected. He was unable to be of much help with regards to such matters.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He was indeed a little impatient during this period of time.

"Chi!"

The sudden sound of rushing wind appeared in front of them just as Xiao Yan and Xiao Li were conversing. Two figures quickly rushed over. Finally, they boarded this Tiger Eagle Beast Xiao Yan's group was on. Xiao Yan and the others looked over. The figures were actually Zi Yan and Medusa.

Xiao Yan sniffed with his nose as he looked at the happy smiling face of Zi Yan. He managed to smell a wisp of extremely weak medicinal fragrance in the air. Immediately, he could not help but ask in surprised, "The both of you had gone to get medicinal ingredients?"

"Hee hee, your nose is really sensitive." Zi Yan laughed out loud when Xiao Yan had pointed out her motive immediately. She flipped her hand

and a couple of exquisitely-shaped jade boxes appeared on it. The little girl handed them over to Xiao Yan in a fawning manner as she said with a laugh, “You can keep some of these medicinal ingredients to help Cai Lin jie-jie refine medicinal pills in the future. However, you must help me refine Yaowan with the rest. You cannot keep all of them!”

TL: jie-jie – older sister

Xiao Yan was somewhat stunned when he received the jade boxes. He opened them one at a time and the surprise in his eyes immediately became denser. He muttered, “This is... Jade Dragon Saliva? Extreme Cold Ganoderma? These medicinal ingredients... where did you get them from?”

It was little wonder that Xiao Yan was shocked. These few medicinal ingredients were mostly those that were required to refine the ‘Soul Recovery Pill’. Xiao Yan had mentioned this medicinal pill to Medusa back then. It was unexpected that a couple of those medicinal ingredients that were difficult to find even in the ‘Black-Corner Region’ would actually be found in one go by this little girl Zi Yan.

“Zi Yan naturally has a special ability to sense these spiritual medicine. It is naturally an easy task to look for them.” Medusa rubbed Zi Yan’s little head and spoke indifferently to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan curled his mouth. He had forgotten that Zi Yan had such a special ability. He must bring this little girl along if he wanted to search for medicinal ingredients in the future...

“However, these medicinal ingredients... do not appear like they have just left the ground? These medicinal ingredients aren’t those that you have went to look for and unearth right?” Xiao Yan played with the jade boxes. He appeared to have discovered something as he asked with a frown.

“Hee hee...” Zi Yan laughed when she heard this. She immediately spoke softly, “These are things stored by some factions along the way. Cai Lin jie-jie said that it is a waste for them to keep these. Hence, we secretly took them out...”

Xiao Yan was stunned as he looked at Zi Yan who was smiling awkwardly. His expression gradually turned green as he looked at Medusa angrily, "You actually brought her to steal medicinal ingredients?"

"I will settle it if any problem were to occur. There is nothing you need to worry about. Moreover, these medicinal ingredients are all those that are needed for you to help me refine the 'Soul Recovery Pill'. I don't wish to wait until our agreement is over only for you to tell me that you have not found all the medicinal ingredients." Medusa curled her lips and spoke indifferently.

The corner of Xiao Yan's eyes twitched. He did not expect that these two individuals, one big and one small, could really cause trouble. It was fortunate that they were not discovered when they stole these medicinal ingredients. Otherwise, they could forget about smoothly resting for their journey.

"Get them to increase our speed!" Xiao Yan's expression was green as he turned around and spoke solemnly to Xiao Li.

"Yes." Xiao Li let out a bitter laugh. The Dou Qi wings on his back were flapped as he rushed to the other flying Magical Beast.

"The two of you are not allowed to leave without my permission in the future!" Xiao Yan once again turned toward Zi Yan and Medusa and spoke furiously after seeing Xiao Li leave.

Zi Yan secretly extended her tongue when she saw Xiao Yan's somewhat green face. Queen Medusa by the side had vertical eyebrows but eventually swallowed the words in her mouth when she saw the furious gaze of Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan only quietly sighed in relief after he had suppressed these two fellows who gave him a headache. He lowered his head, eyed the jade boxes in his hand and helplessly shook his head. All he could do was to store them in his storage ring.

The speed at which Xiao Yan's group traveled clearly became much faster after this matter was over. This kind of speed continued for a couple of days. Only after they were far from the area where Zi Yan and Medusa

created trouble did Xiao Yan completely relax. After which, he once again reduced the speed.

Time swiftly flowed like sand between one's fingers during the dull flight...

As time flowed by, the distance between Xiao Yan's large troops and the border of the Jia Ma Empire also became increasingly closer...

# Chapter 674: Zhen Gui Pass! Old Acquaintance!

Xiao Yan's group was coming increasingly closer to their destination after two long months of flying. According to what the map indicated, they would soon be able to reach the border of the Jia Ma Empire...

Time flowed by amid this dull flying. When the endless, long journey once again passed through a majestic mountain range, the large outline of a fortress faintly appeared at the edge of their sight.

The fortress was built against the mountains, appearing much like a ferocious tiger that guarded the key route that led from the empire to its exterior. Anyone who wanted to leave the Jia Ma Empire must pass through this enormous fortress. This heavily guarded fortress had swallowed an unknown number of ghosts. They were the ghosts of people who died on the battlefield during these years. This had also caused many empires around to fear it like one feared a tiger.

Hence this fortress had a rather fierce name.

Zhen Gui Pass! (Ghost Crushing Pass)

A smile slowly solidified on Xiao Yan's face as his gaze swept toward the outline of the enormous fortress in the distant horizon. He stood up on the enormous head of the Tiger Eagle Beast and looked down on the city fortress that still emitted a ghastly aura despite being a great distance away. A moment later, a smile surfaced on the corner of his mouth and swiftly widened. Finally, a roaring laughter that had been suppressed for three years sounded like thunder in the sky!

"Jia Ma Empire, I, Xiao Yan... has returned!"

The loud laughter rolled like a thunder in the sky. However, there was usually hardly anyone in this location. Otherwise, he would definitely have attracted the gazes of a countless number of people.

The people on the ten plus flying beasts watched Xiao Yan who seldom forget himself as they threw their surprised gazes over. This was the first

time they had seen Xiao Yan, this person who had always maintained a warm smile and never appeared to be flustered, forgetting himself.

“Is this place the Jia Ma Empire?” Lin Yan and the others stood at the front somewhat curiously. Their gaze looked toward the extremely distant fortress and inquired.

“Yes. This is a border fortress of the Jia Ma Empire. We can be considered to have entered the Jia Ma Empire once we pass through this place.” Xiao Li nodded and said.

“Back then, I fled from this place when I was chased by the Misty Cloud Sect. It is really unexpected that I would return to this spot three years later.” The wild smile on Xiao Yan’s face was slowly withdrawn. He turned his head toward Lin Yan and others to speak with a grin. That smile had a nostalgic feeling to it.

“Ke ke, if that is the case, what are we waiting for?” Xiao Li smiled. He patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders. Back then, Xiao Yan had escaped alive while being chased by the Misty Cloud Sect, who wanted to kill him. This matter had turned the Jia Ma Empire into an uproar back then. The various thrills involved were far more exciting and dangerous compared to what was transmitted out.

Xiao Yan also laughed softly. His long hand was extended from his sleeves and a glow flashed from the ‘Serene Sea Storage Ring’. An enormous dark-black heavy ruler appeared with a flash.

“I wonder if there is anyone within the Jia Ma Empire who is still currently able to recall this image?” The Heavy Xuan Ruler was placed on Xiao Yan’s back as he patted it and laughed. Its large size was nearly as tall as Xiao Yan’s height.

Lin Yan and the others watched that black-robed, young man who was carrying a black ruler with his hands behind his back as he stood on the head of the Tiger Eagle Beast. They suddenly vaguely sensed a sharp killing intent gradually being emitted from the body of this usually gentle fellow. The few of them exchanged glances. In their hearts, all of them quietly mentioned that the Jia Ma Empire would become a little chaotic

because of this fellow return...

“Everyone, increase our speed!” Xiao Yan gently waved his hand as his voice clearly resounded by everyone’s ears. That tone which had always been as gentle as a breeze gained an additional anxiety at this moment.

An acknowledgement sounded in the sky upon hearing Xiao Yan’s orders. Immediately the ten plus flying beasts flapped their flesh wings amid some roars, carrying along a wild wind as they rushed toward the distant fortress.

Although the distance appeared to to extremely far, Xiao Yan and the others were already in close proximity of the fortress after less than ten minutes of straight flying by the flying beast!

Xiao Yan waved his hand as they gradually approached this fortress. The flying units in the sky immediately paused. All the gazes swept toward the figure of the young man who was carrying a heavy ruler in front of them.

They were at least a thousand meters from the ground and the people below would likely only vaguely see some small black spots if they looked up to such a height from below. However, with Xiao Yan’s eyesight, he could clearly absorb all the activity on the ground into his eyes.

Xiao Yan’s gaze swept over the huge bright red characters on the gate of the fortress. The familiar name caused Xiao Yan’s entire body to appear as though it was filled with electricity. A numb feeling writhed within his blood.

“Zhen Gui Pass... it has been three years since they parted. There might be little change to the city but the people have already changed drastically.” Xiao Yan sighed softly as he whispered.

“Third brother, it seems that something is wrong... this ‘Zhen Gui Pass’ seems to be a little too quiet today. According to what I know, this is the largest fortress within fifty kilometers of this place. There would be some hustle and bustle even at night. Now, however...” Xiao Li suddenly frowned and spoke somewhat doubtfully while Xiao Yan was sighing emotionally in his heart.

Xiao Yan was also startled when he heard this. His gaze swept over the silent fortress and surprise also flashed in his eyes, “Indeed... when I was leaving from this place back then there was extremely great human traffic here. What happened today?”

“Don’t tell me that someone already learned about the news of your return?” Lin Xiu Ya also extended his head over and asked.

“How can this be possible? The ‘Black-Corner Region’ and the Jia Ma Empire are so far apart. No one in the Jia Ma Empire should be aware about any news regarding me.” Xiao Yan shook his head and said.

“The city seems to have traces of a fight. Moreover, there are quite a number of strong people gathered in a single location.” Medusa, who had been silent, suddenly spoke in a faint voice.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard Medusa’s words. He immediately shut his eyes slowly and his powerful Spiritual Strength spread out like a torrent from between his eyebrows. Finally, it swiftly swept over the entire fortress below.

Xiao Li and the others ceased speaking when they saw Xiao Yan shut his eyes. They quietly waited for him to investigate.

Xiao Yan opened his eyes once again some time later. His gaze turned to the middle of the fortress. An unexpected smile surfaced on the corner of his mouth as he softly spoke, “This fortress is indeed not quite peaceful. Moreover, it is really unexpected that I am able to meet some familiar people just upon my return to the Jia Ma Empire.”

“Familiar people?” Xiao Li was stunned.

“Let’s go down and take a look...” Xiao Yan smiled but did not say anything else. He waved his hand and immediately commanded the Tiger Eagle Beasts as they flapped their flesh wings and descended. The ten plus flying beast also followed closely behind.

At this moment, the atmosphere within a spacious front yard in the middle of the city governor’s mansion in the Zhen Gui Pass was extremely anxious with the possibility of a conflict breaking out at any time. Two

groups of people were facing each other with hostility. Shining weapons carried a denseness under the sunlight. Clearly, this was not some acting. Instead, they were really going to fight each other with sharp blades.

“Meng Li, you actually dare to privately attack your commander. You will have difficulty keeping your head if this matter were to reach the capital!” A strong looking middle-aged man from one of the clusters of people, who looked like a metal pagoda, cried out while furiously looking at the man on the other side who had a cold smile.

“Hee hee, Mu Tie, don’t use this method on me. Although I have made preparations for this for a long time, I would naturally not dare to do such an outrageous thing without the support of someone.” The man wearing a yellow robe laughed in a dark voice.

“Support? You mean... the Misty Cloud Sect?” The man who was addressed as Mu Tie eyes shrank when he heard this. He cried out in a shocked voice, “What does the Misty Cloud Sect want to do? If the imperial family knows this, it will definitely maneuver their troops to destroy them!”

“Hee hee, the imperial family? So what? Would the Misty Cloud Sect be afraid of them with its strength?” Meng Li laughed. His gaze immediately turned cold as he spoke in a sinister manner, “As long as I kill you, I will naturally have my own method to control this ‘Zhen Gui Pass’. With the reputation that I have established over these years, it might be a little troublesome to incorporate all the soldiers here under me but it is not impossible!”

“You actually want to incorporate the empire’s army under you?” Mu Tie gently inhaled a breath of cool air. A storm rose in his heart. He knew that if the matter here were to spread to the capital, it was likely that the entire Jia Ma Empire would show feel an earth-shaking shock. It was unexpected that the Misty Cloud Sect was already this crazy.

“Although this city governor’s mansion will be the place you die, it is best that you remain unaware of some things.” Meng Li laughed.

“You want to kill me with your peak Dou Ling’s strength?” Mu Tie

furiously laughed.

“Commander Mu Tie, I know that you have broken through to the Dou Wang class recently. However, a person who has yet to even stabilize his strength in the Dou Wang class dares to be this arrogant?” Meng Li curled his lips in disdain. He immediately cried out loud, “Elder Yun Fan, please intervene and get rid of this person!”

Meng Li’s voice had just sounded when a rushing wind sound suddenly appeared. Immediately over ten white-robed human figures flashed and appeared on the surrounding tall walls of the front yard. The person at the front was an old man with a calm water-like face. A pressuring atmosphere covered the entire city governor’s mansion upon his appearance.

“Yun Fan? An Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect?” Mu Tie’s expression was ugly as he looked at the old man who had appeared. A gloominess involuntarily surged in his heart. He had been lingering around the peak of the Dou Ling class for so many years and had only luckily broke through to the Dou Wang class not long ago. If one was to discuss his strength, he could not even be truly considered a one star Dou Wang. How would he be able to contend with a Misty Cloud Sect’s Elder whose strength had reached that of a three star Dou Wang?

“Commander Mu Tie, it would be best that you hand the military symbol over. Your Mu clan is also one of the three large clans of the empire. If your clan joins with our Misty Cloud Sect, the things that the Mu Clan will gain in the future will definitely be even more than now. If you continue to be unrepentant, it is likely that destruction will not be far away.” Yun Fan glanced indifferently at the ugly expression of Mu Tie and slowly spoke

TL: military symbol – in ancient china, this item is used to enable quick maneuver of the military. Whoever holds it has the right to command the military.

“The Misty Cloud Sect is committing treason and is certainly a disgrace. I, Mu Tie, am a general of the empire. There is no need for others to tell me off if I were to surrender to you. Even I, myself, would look down on

me!” Mu Tie angrily retorted.

“Stubborn fool!”

Yun Fan shook his head. His expression also gradually turned colder. He clenched his fist and a dark-blue longsword appeared in his hand. The sword tip was raised level as it locked onto Mu Tie before he spoke in an indifferent manner, “The only fate of anyone who hinders our Misty Cloud Sect is death. Since you remain unrepentant, don’t blame the old me for being merciless.”

“Ha ha, it’s just as well. I have yet to exchange blows with anyone since I have broken through to the Dou Wang class. Today, I will not lose out even if I end up dying in your hands. However, the wild ambition of the Misty Cloud Sect will definitely die in its embryonic stage!” Mu Tie also raised all the fighting intent in his heart when he heard the killing intent that was contained in Yun Fan’s voice. Although he knew it was definitely impossible for him to defeat the other party, it was better to fight to death than to surrender in this kind of situation.

Yun Fan narrowed his old eyes. His expression grew increasingly colder. An incomparably powerful Dou Qi slowly surged out from his body and the pressuring strength that was created from the Dou Qi caused quite a number of people in the yard to hurriedly step back.

Mu Tie’s expression also gradually became solemn in the face of Yun Fan’s powerful Dou Qi aura. He withdrew a huge axe from his storage ring. The Dou Qi in his body was circulated to its limit...

However, just as the anxious swords drawn atmosphere was about to be broken by an intense battle between strong Dou Wangs was about to erupt, a clear laugh slowly transmitted from the sky. The laughter lingered within the yard and did not disappear for a long time.

“Ke ke, it has been three years since I left. I didn’t expect that the Misty Cloud Sect to become this arrogant. It really greatly exceeded my expectations. Looks like old dog Yun Shan has quite the wild ambition...”

# Chapter 675: Mu Tie

The sudden laugh broke the anxious swords-drawn atmosphere within the yard. Many people held stunned expressions. Someone actually dared to hurl such insults at Yun Shan in the current Jia Ma Empire?

A dark coldness gradually surge up Yun Fan's face. He slowly raised his head and threw his gaze toward the sky like everyone else.

However, everyone's expression changed a little when their gazes looked at the ten plus enormous flying beast lingering in the sky. Who were these uninvited guest?

Mu Tie also looked at the flying Magical Beast in the sky in alarm. He hurriedly waved his hand as he felt lost in this situation. The large group that was gathered behind him swarmed forward and surrounded him. Their gazes were cautious as they looked at those uninvited guests in the sky.

"Everyone isn't people from the Jia Ma Empire right?" Yun Fan's expression was dark and cold as he looked at the ten plus Magical Beast in the sky. He coldly said, "This is our Misty Cloud Sect's issue, I will advise all of you not to meddle in another's business!"

"Ke ke, it is indeed the Misty Cloud Sect."

A faint laugh was emitted again from the back of the Tiger Eagle Beast suspending in the sky after Yun Fan's voice sounded. Immediately, some figures flashed and over ten human figures leaped down from the back of the beast and steadily landed in the yard.

Yun Fan's aura that had covered the entire city governor's mansion immediately shrank like a torrent after these ten human figures landed. In merely an instant, it was completely suppressed back into his body and not even a little of it could seep out.

Yun Fan's expression immediately turned ugly at his aura being suppressed to such an extent. From this act of the other party, it was obvious that their strength far surpassed his.

There were quite a number of people in the yard who sensed Yun Fan's aura being suppressed. They immediately looked at one another. The caution in their hearts soared. As the saying goes, those who come have ill motives and those without would not come. It was likely that the manner today would not be easily resolved.

Mu Tie softly ordered the surrounding troops to not act rashly. His gaze was cautious as he swept his gaze over the ten plus human figures who had leaped down from the Magical Beast.

His sweeping gaze first paused on the body of a black-robed, young man who was standing right at the front. His gaze stared at the young face and Mu Tie became stunned. He faintly felt a familiar feeling. However, it was difficult for him to recall when he had interacted with such a strong person at this moment. While he was thinking in his heart, his gaze swiftly swept over the other people. A great storm gradually surged in his heart a moment later. He discovered that he was actually unable to see through the strength of all ten human figures who had appeared. There was only one reason for such a situation to happen. The strength of these people had far exceeded his!

Mu Tie's throat rolled a little. He merely felt that his mouth was completely dry. Over ten Dou Wang or stronger experts? This kind of frightening line-up... just where did these people come from? Why had he never heard even a little information about this? It would be quite a difficult thing for even the few neighboring empires to gather so many experts within a short period of time.

Mu Tie's expression was ugly but it was not much better for Yun Fan. This was because the latter had similarly discovered that even the weakest among these people would likely have a strength similar to his. The rest, like the black-robed, young man in the leader's spot and the bewitching cold, glamorous, red-clothed beauty, caused him to feel a fear that came from deep within his heart.

The entire front yard had descended into an unusual silence because of these uninvited guests. This included the members of the Misty Cloud Sect on the wall and Yun Fan. None of them dared to make any unusual

movements.

“May I know just who you are? The old me is Yun Fan, an Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect. Our sect leader is Yun Shan. Have you heard of him?” Yun Fan finally suppressed the shock within his heart some time later, and cupped his hands to the black-robed, young man who was occupying the leader’s spot. His voice was much more courteous and careful compared to before. Moreover, his intention of bring out Yun Shan’s name was undoubtedly to cause these people of unknown origin to feel some fear.

“Yun Shan? I have heard of him... I also have quite the connection with him.” The black-robed, young man smiled. The corner of his mouth contained a teasing look.

Yun Fan immediately sighed in relief when he heard this. Since the other party had heard of Yun Shan’s name, it was likely that they knew that he was an extremely powerful Dou Zong expert!

The teasing look on the corner of the black-robed, young man’s mouth also widened when he saw Yun Fan’s relaxed manner. He slowly took two steps forward. When he moved forward, Mu Tie’s and Yun Fan’s groups hurriedly took a step back and looked at him with great caution.

Xiao Yan turned his head over slightly. He threw his gaze on Mu Tie who was being heavily protected by his subordinates. The skin on Mu Tie’s head became numb when he saw the former’s eyes looking over. The arm which was tightly grabbing the enormous axe trembled. He could sense that he would likely not have the slightest chance to live if this mysterious black-robed, young man were to attack him.

“Ke ke, big brother Mu Tie, there is no need to be anxious. I have been remembering the favor of you letting me escape back then.” The black-robed, young man laughed softly as he looked at the anxious Mu Tie. The words that he spoke caused both parties forces to immediately become stunned.

Mu Tie’s face was similarly stunned because of the words of the black-robed, young man. His gaze immediately paused on the somewhat familiar

face of the latter. A moment later, his gaze suddenly swept toward the enormous black ruler that the black-robed, young man was carrying on his back. A thought flashed in his head. The memory which had been hidden for three years was finally ruthlessly grabbed by him.

“You... you... you are Xiao Yan?”

A voice that contained disbelief amid some shock was transmitted from Mu Tie’s mouth. The two groups of people in the front yard once again became dull as Mu Tie’s face became stunned.

Xiao Yan? A name which had gradually forgotten during these three years. Only until Mu Tie’s reminder did the certain matter and people from three years ago churn out in the minds of some of those present.

Numerous dull gazes looked at the black-robed, young man carrying an enormous black ruler. At this moment, the face that had gained some additional maturity and the somewhat tender face back then slowly merged...

“Xiao Yan? How is this possible? How can you still be alive?”

Yun Fan had also turned dull because of the name that was emitted from Mu Tie’s mouth. A moment later, he became just like a cat that had had its tail stepped on as he screeched out in disbelief. The Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples on the wall also revealed shocked faces. Only at this moment did they understand what the meaning behind Xiao Yan’s earlier words about having quite a deep connection with Yun Shan. They did indeed have quite a deep connection between them. However, it was that of irreconcilable enemies!

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head as he looked at the various expressions of everyone in the yard. He smiled and spoke to Yun Fan, “That old dog Yun Shan is still alive. Why should I die?”

Yun Fan’s face twitched. There was still a remnants of disbelief on his face. The culprit who had turned the Misty Cloud Sect into a big mess three years ago was actually still alive. Moreover, from the looks of it, this person’s strength had soared to a point that far exceeded his own. Yun Fan’s heart involuntarily leaped with great force when he thought of this.

Only now did he understand why the Misty Cloud Sect Leader used the entire strength of the sect to chase after this young man who was only in his teens... this fellow's growth potential was indeed too terrifying!

“Kill him!”

Yun Fan did not blink as he suddenly cried out in a ferocious manner. He could not let this fellow live!

The ten plus Misty Cloud Sect's disciple on the wall let out a stern cry after Yun Fan's order sounded. However, their Dou Qi had just surged out when they heard the sharp sound of rushing wind. Instantly, sharp sword blades pierced out from their chests as bright-red blood seeped out. The life in their eyes swiftly disappeared. They tried to forcefully turn their heads around as their consciousnesses scattered. However, they only saw numerous cold faces that were filled with bloodthirstiness.

“Pop! Pop!”

One could only hear a muffled sound emitted when the corpses fell down the wall and smashed into the ground. Mu Tie's face involuntarily twitched. His gaze vaguely glanced over the ten plus black figures that had unknowingly appeared on the wall. Shock immediately appeared in his heart. He could sense that the strength of all these black-clothed individuals were actually all at the peak of the Dou Ling class. Looking at the vicious tactics of killing with one strike, Mu Tie thought that it was likely that he would have a fifty-percent chance of dying in their hands if these ten plus people were to surround and attack him together. These people were basically the most outstanding forces which were not afraid to die!

“Are these people all their subordinates... moreover there are those experts who have yet to intervene...” Mu Tie swallowed a mouthful of saliva. His gaze carried some shock as he looked at the black-robed, young man who was standing with a smile. His heart still held some disbelief. In just three short years, the person who was alone as he was chased out by the Misty Cloud Sect like a dog that had lost its home would actually possess such great strength!

Yun Fan's heart also pounded abruptly as he saw those elites that he had brought out from the sect being killed so easily. His gaze swept over the smiling young man and an uneasiness gradually surged within his heart. Today...

"Blade Axe Company, attack!"

A stern cry suddenly sounded from the mouth of Meng Li behind Yun Fan. At this moment, this fellow was looking at Xiao Yan with a savage face. It was unexpected that the thing he was about to obtain would be spoiled by this bastard. Since this was the case, he would kill all of them.

"Bastard, you actually dare to privately maneuver the army?" Mu Tie immediately cried out angrily when he heard Meng Li's cry.

Meng Li laughed evilly. His gaze also became darker and more ruthless as he gradually heard the sound of orderly footsteps outside.

Xiao Yan looked at Meng Li indifferently. He still remembered this person. Back then, he was blocked by this fellow when he was about to leave the Jia Ma Empire...

Xiao Yan slowly raised his head and waved his hand and the ten plus enormous flying beast in the sky.

"Hee hee, chief Xiao, you can leave these little shrimps to us. There is no need for you to worry about them." A laugh sounded from the sky after Xiao Yan waved his hand. Immediately, numerous black shadows rushed down. Powerful Dou Qi immediately erupted outside the mansion along with the sound of blades colliding and miserable cries.

After hearing the killing sound outside and seeing that not a single soldier had rushed in after awhile, the smile on Meng Li's face gradually stiffened. He had placed thousands of soldiers outside. Yet from the looks of it now...

A bloody stench slowly spread in from outside. A pale-whiteness and terror gradually surged on Yun Fan's and Meng Li's face.

Xiao Yan glanced at the two of them and slowly stepped forward. His gentle voice, however, caused the bodies of both Yun Fan and Meng Li to

feel icy-cold.

“I will repay what the Misty Cloud Sect has done to the Xiao clan by over a hundred times. Today, I will begin with the both of you... relax, old dog Yun Shan will also go down and accompany you.”

Mu Tie's mind was somewhat absent-minded as he looked at the back of the black-robed, young man who was slowly walking. The words that were left behind by the young man who was miserably chased after three years ago suddenly sounded once again by his ears.

“Help me inform Yun Shan. Within two years or at the very most five years, I, Xiao Yan will return!”

“This fellow... actually... really did it.”

# Chapter 676: Kill

Yun Fan inhaled a deep breath of air as he watched the black-robed, young man who was walking over with a smile that was increasingly icy-cold. He held the dark-blue longsword tightly in his hand and the Dou Qi within his body churned unceasingly, appearing like floodwater. The shock in his heart had been greatly reduced as his eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan. A thought, however, had rose in his heart.

“This brat will definitely look for the Misty Cloud Sect to take revenge now that he has returned to the Jia Ma Empire. Looks like I must send this information to the sect. Otherwise, we might be caught off guard in the future.”

Yun Fan’s eyes flickered. He turned his head toward the similarly pale-faced Meng Li and said in a soft and quick manner, “I will delay him. Take the opportunity to leave. After which inform the sect leader of Xiao Yan’s return!” He did not wait for Meng Li’s response after his words sounded. His shoulders shook and a pair of pale-blue Dou Qi wings surged out. His feet gently pressed on the ground and his body turned into a vague shadow. It was mixed with sharp blade wind as he shot toward Xiao Yan.

“Be careful!”

Mu Tie’s heart tightened when he saw Yun Fan suddenly attack and hurriedly cried out a reminder. However, he had just recovered after his reminder had sounded. The young man who was currently in front of him was no longer the young man who was chased like a dog that had lost its home back then.

Xiao Yan turned his head and smiled to Mu Tie. A cluster of jade-green flames suddenly appeared on his hand. He lifted his eyes slightly and saw the man and sword which were swiftly magnified in his eyes. The corner of his mouth moved. A faint silver colored glow flashed and appeared under his feet.

“Chi!”

The deep-blue longsword carried a sharp sword aura as it tore through

the air. It carried a dark, cold wind as it shot toward Xiao Yan's chest. When everyone's gaze were focused on him, Yun Fan suddenly cried out sternly, "Go!"

Meng Li, who was already ready by the side, stomped his feet violently on the ground. His body was like a cannonball as he rushed out of the city governor's mansion in a lightning-like manner.

"You want to go?" Xiao Yan coldly smiled as he heard the rushing wind sound that appeared when Meng Li fled. His left hand was extended before it was abruptly clenched. A powerful suction force immediately erupted from his palm.

A wild wind immediately surfaced from the powerful suction force. Even the enormous rocks in the yard began to tremble violently. Some of the tree trunks were broken. The body of Meng Li, who was fleeing, suddenly paused in mid-air. His body swiftly pulled back. All his struggle was to no avail.

"Hah!"

The longsword in Yun Fan's hand suddenly escaped from his hand just as Xiao Yan sucked Meng Li over. It transformed into a deep-blue cold glit that pierced violently toward Xiao Yan's chest, which was in close proximity. When the sword left his hand, the pair of wings on Yun Fan's back flapped swiftly and he rushed to the sky in the blink of an eye before turning his body around to flee.

"Bait huh..." Xiao Yan raised his brows in surprise when Yun Fan suddenly abandoned his attack, turned around, and fled. This old fellow was indeed a treacherous person. Earlier, he had only asked Meng Li to flee first so that he could use the latter to quietly get away.

Lin Yan, Zi Yan, and the others who was coincidentally leisurely by the side were just about to move after seeing Yun Fan flee when Xiao Yan's laughter stopped them, "Allow me."

After Xiao Yan's laughter sounded, Meng Li, who was originally flying toward him under the influence of the suction force, suddenly paused in mid-air. An instant later, a powerful pushing force once again surged out

from Xiao Yan's palm. Finally, it smashed firmly on the back of Meng Li. The latter's expression suddenly became pale after being assaulted by these two forces. A mouthful of bright-red fresh blood was immediately spat out.

Xiao Yan waved his hand and the sky rippled. An invisible force randomly swung Meng Li into the wall. Finally, he landed heavily on the ground with an unknown fate.

Meng Li's body had just landed on the ground when Xiao Yan's body, which was in the yard, strangely disappeared. The eyeballs of Mu Tie and the others nearly popped out when they saw his ghost-like figure. Was this speed not a little too frightening.

The faint rumble of thunder reverberated in the yard as Xiao Yan's body disappeared. A moment later, the sharp sound of rushing wind suddenly appeared in the sky just as Mu Tie and the others were looking at each other. A human body immediately fell from the sky in a miserable manner. Finally, it violently smashed into the ground and dust immediately spread all over the place.

"A mere three star Dou Wang. If I were to allow you to flee in front of me, how would I be able to talk about ending the grudge with Yun Shan?" A soft laugh sounded in the sky. Everyone raised their heads and saw the young man who was carrying a heavy ruler flapping his jade-green fire wings as he slowly floated in the air. His gaze was indifferent as he looked at the human figure that had fallen to the ground.

The dust gradually scattered in the yard. Yun Fan's figure was slowly revealed. However, at this moment, this Misty Cloud Sect's Elder, who was usually aloof, displayed a pale face at this moment. There was still remnant traces of blood on the corner of his mouth. Both of his eyes carried a fear and disbelief as he looked at the black-robed, young man in the sky. The two of them had not even exchanged more than three blows earlier when he descended into a seriously injured state. The other party's strength was actually this terrifying.

"Xiao Yan, if you kill me, sect leader Yun Shan will definitely not let you

off! The last time, you were able to luckily escape with your life. I'm afraid that you will not have such good luck this time around!" Yun Fan glanced at Meng Li, whose fate was unknown, by the corner of the wall. His eyelids twitched as he spoke with a brave exterior.

Xiao Yan lifted the corner of his mouth into a ridiculing smile. He shook his head and was too lazy to say any unnecessary words. A cluster of green flame surfaced from his palm with a flick of his finger. The temperature of the surroundings instantly became hot with the appearance of this cluster of flame.

"The Misty Cloud Sect has destroyed my Xiao clan. This vengeance is something that I will get them to pay many times back. In the future, I will kill every single member of the Misty Cloud Sect. It will sooner or later be the turn of old dog Yun Shan." Xiao Yan laughed faintly. His gaze looked at the cluster of dark-green flame in his hand and immediately shook his head. With a flick of his finger, the cluster of flame left his hand and immediately shot accurately toward the frightened Yun Fan.

The jade-green flame had just made contact with Yun Fan's body when the latter ignited on fire. The already seriously injured Yun Fan did not have time to maneuver Dou Qi to resist this kind of frighteningly high temperature. His body erupted into charred black ashes amid a low, deep sound.

The entire yard was completely silent as they looked at the pile of charred black ashes on the ground. Although the sun was hanging high in the sky at this moment, Mu Tie and the others appeared as though they were in a deep abyss. Their entire bodies were icy-cold. An elite Dou Wang who was still leaping around in a lively manner earlier had ended up without even a corpse in front of their eyes.

Xiao Yan waved his sleeves and a wind blew, scattering the charred black ashes on the ground. The jade-green fire wings on Xiao Yan's back slowly disappeared. A silver glow flashed under his feet and his body once again appeared in the yard in a ghost-like manner.

"Big brother Mu Tie, we have not met for three years. Are you still well?"

Xiao Yan's feet landed on the ground. The coldness on his face instantly disappeared as a warm smile once again filled the young man with sunlight. However, no one would think that this young man was some gentle-hearted person after the scene earlier.

A stiff smile was revealed on Mu Tie's face when he heard Xiao Yan's voice. That manner was extremely ugly. He, too, seemed to have sensed something as he immediately rubbed his face violently. Only then did he spoke with a bitter smile, "You... are you really Xiao Yan?"

Xiao Yan was dumbfounded when he heard this. He grinned and said, "Is there anyone else within the Jia Ma Empire who dares to call himself Xiao Yan?"

Mu Tie nodded his head in an embarrassed manner. Indeed, the name Xiao Yan, had basically become a taboo word within the Jia Ma Empire during these few years. This was all because that enormous sect held a deep hatred for this name!

"Big brother Mu Tie, thank you very much for the matter back then." Xiao Yan slowly walked toward Mu Tie and smiled as he spoke. Those guards beside the latter immediately tensed up. Their hands were trembling a little as they held their weapons. They had just witnessed, with their own eyes, an elite Dou Wang ending up without even a corpse because of this young man.

Mu Tie waved his hand and scattered the surrounding disgraceful guards. Only at this moment was Mu Tie able to completely sense that the matter that had just happened was reality and not an illusion... however, this reality was far too unbelievable.

"Cough... brother Xiao Yan. Ke ke, actually, I had received a mail from my clan back then to get me to quietly provide you help if possible. However, I think that it would not be a difficult thing for you to leave the 'Zhen Gui Pass' given your strength back then. That little help of mine is nothing much." Mu Tie rubbed his head. That strong build of his caused him to display an honest and straightforward feeling when he smiled.

"Ke ke, the Mu clan huh. Xiao Yan will remember it." Xiao Yan smiled

and pointed toward the exterior of the city governor's mansion. He said, "I'm sorry for my attack being too strong. You might need to personally show yourself and clear up the place."

Mu Tie sniffed the bloody stench that was spreading over from the outside. He immediately laughed bitterly. This fellow was indeed no longer the sentimental and tender young man of the past. This time around, I'm afraid that the Misty Cloud Sect will truly be turned upside down with greater intensity because of this young man.

"Brother Xiao Yan, no matter what, I have to thank you for intervening today. Otherwise, it is likely that Meng Li's trick would have succeeded." Mu Tie spoke sincerely as he cupped his hands toward Xiao Yan with a serious expression.

Xiao Yan smiled and waved his hand. After which he crossed his fingers and said softly, "I have not been to the Jia Ma Empire for three years. Can I get big brother Mu Tie to tell me about the current situation within Jia Ma Empire?"

"Ugh, the Jia Ma Empire has been extremely eventful during these few years. All of these matters were caused by the Misty Cloud Sect." Mu Tie knit his brows and sighed. He immediately said to Xiao Yan, "It is going to be a long story. If brother Xiao Yan is not in a hurry to leave, please enter the house and allow me to tell you in detail."

Xiao Yan mused for a moment after hearing this. However, he did not reject the offer. Now that he was back within the empire, the most important thing was to understand the situation within the empire. Otherwise, it would be the most foolish act to simply go on a rampage.

"In that case, I will trouble big brother Mu Tie."

Mu Tie immediately rejoiced when he saw that Xiao Yan did not reject him. He hurriedly invited Xiao Yan into the hall. He clearly understood that if the matter of Xiao Yan returning to the Jia Ma Empire were to spread, it would definitely become a big event and the most sensational one in the Jia Ma Empire.

# Chapter 677: The Situation in the Jia Ma Empire

Being the host, Mu Tie arranged the seating arrangements for Xiao Yan and his group within a spacious hall in the city governor's mansion before he returned to his own seat. At the same time, he ordered the female servants to serve tea appearing quite thoughtful.

“Ke ke, it is really unexpected that brother Xiao Yan's strength has actually reached this level three years after we parted.” Mu Tie lifted his teacup and took a sip before he laughed. His gaze immediately swept over Xiao Li, Lin Yan, and the others who were beside Xiao Yan, without leaving a trace. He felt that his heart was somewhat jumpy. He clearly understood that the most frightening thing of Xiao Yan's return this time around was not his extraordinary strong self but these strong people whom he had gathered from some unknown place. Anyone of these people who were seated here would likely be sufficient to contend with the ‘Ten Strong’ of the empire.

Xiao Yan smiled but did not continue to be entangled with this topic. He mused for a moment before slowly speaking, “Big brother Mu Tie, it seems that the Jia Ma Empire isn't very peaceful these few years...”

Mu Tie laughed bitterly when he heard this. He sighed, “It is indeed not very peaceful. All of this tension is caused by the Misty Cloud Sect.”

“Oh?” Xiao Yan lifted his eyebrows.

Mu Tie drank a sip of tea and moistened his throat. He seemed to be sorting out his words. A moment later, he opened his mouth to speak, “Within less than half a month after you have left the Jia Ma Empire, the Misty Cloud Sect had changed its aloof style of the past. Not only did it recruit disciples in large numbers but it also showed traces of scattering its disciples to all of the key cities within the empire. It is likely that the imperial family and the three large clans had sensed these little actions of theirs. However, due to Yun Shan's frightening strength, there was no one who dared say anything. After this, the Misty Cloud Sect has also become

more and more arrogant...”

Mu Tie’s gaze secretly looked at Xiao Yan after speaking until this point. He hesitated for a moment before speaking, “After that, the Misty Cloud Sect began the extermination of the Xiao clan... this matter caused an uproar within the empire back then but it did not pose any hindrance to the Misty Cloud Sect.”

The hand which Xiao Yan used to hold the teacup tightened slightly. His dark-black eyes slowly became narrowed as a faint, cold glint flashed through them.

Mu Tie was startled when he saw the calm manner of Xiao Yan. He immediately understood it. It was likely that this young man in front of him was already aware of this...

“Does big brother Mu Tie know where the remnant members of our Xiao clan are?” Xiao Yan rubbed the teacup as he softly spoke.

“I am also not too certain about this. Back then, any traces of the Xiao clan completely disappeared after the matter happened. However, if brother Xiao Yan wants to search for them, I will advise you to make a trip to the Primer clan. They might perhaps know something.” Mu Tie shook his head and immediately voiced his thoughts.

“The Primer clan huh?” Xiao Yan nodded his head. It seemed that he must go and find Hai Bodong in order to learn the whereabouts of big brother and the others.

“Ke ke, currently the Primer clan is already completely in the control of Ya Fei xiao-jie. Tsk tsk, this woman may be young but that ability of hers is something that even our clan’s elders have quietly praised repeatedly. Within three short years, she has turned the Primer clan into the top of the three large clans. People have no choice but to submit to her.” Mu Tie smiled and explained some more.

TL: xiao-jie – young lady of a powerful/rich clan

“Big sister Ya Fei?” Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this name which was stored deep within his mind. A warm smile immediately

surfaced on the corner of his mouth. It was all thanks to the Primer clan and her intervention back then when he was chased by the Misty Cloud Sect that he was able to gain the opportunity to flee. Her favor toward him was something that Xiao Yan would never forget.

“It is really unexpected that she is able to control the Primer clan within her hands. I have somewhat underestimated her in the past.” Xiao Yan rubbed his nose and softly laughed. He clearly understood just how difficult it was for a woman, especially one who did not have extraordinary talent in terms of Dou Qi training, to control the people of an entire clan in this world that was ruled by Dou Qi.

Mu Tie smiled. He appeared to randomly inquire, “Brother Xiao Yan’s return... it is likely that there is going to be quite a big activity, right?”

“I am only opposing the Misty Cloud Sect.” Xiao Yan spoke with a faint smile. His gaze drifted toward Mu Tie as he suddenly said, “Does big brother Mu Tie has any information regarding Yun Shan?”

Mu Tie was stunned when he heard this. He immediately shook his head in embarrassment as he said, “How can I understand an expert of that level? However, I am occasionally able to gather something from the rumors among the Elders in the clan. It is likely that the current Yun Shan is even stronger than he was three years ago.”

Xiao Yan was also helpless in the face of these basically useless words. His gaze looked at the tiny ripple spreading within his cup. A noble, graceful, beautiful face suddenly flashed and appeared in his mind. The various angry smiles between his forehead caused Xiao Yan’s mood to suddenly become chaotic.

“Crack!”

A slight crack line formed on the teacup in his hand because of the great strength he emitted. Everyone in the hall had stunned faces as they looked at Xiao Yan, whose aura had started to rise. All of them were confused.

“Third brother, what is it?” Xiao Li, who was seated closest to Xiao Yan hurriedly touched Xiao Yan and asked.

"I'm fine." Xiao Yan gradually recovered after being touched by Xiao Li. He inhaled a deep breath of air and suppressed his chaotic heart. He waved his hand and carelessly inquired, "... that's right, big brother Mu Tie, do you know who is currently in control of the Misty Cloud Sect?"

"Who else can it be. Naturally, it's Yun Shan." Mu Tie spread his hands and said.

Xiao Yan raised his eyebrows and rolled his tongue a couple of times. Finally, he uttered a name he had resisted for three years, "What about Yun Yun? It seems that she is the leader of the Misty Cloud Sect right?"

"Sect leader Yun Yun huh... Yun Shan stripped her of her position of sect leader not long after you left the Jia Ma Empire. After which, she no longer managed the issues within the sect. Currently, all the authority within the Misty Cloud Sect is managed by Yun Shan." Mu Tie voiced his thoughts.

Xiao Yan quietly nodded his head after hearing this. Somewhere deep within his heart, he sighed in relief without realizing it.

"These current actions of the Misty Cloud Sect can be mostly credited to Yun Shan. Moreover, by looking at what happened in the 'Zhen Gui Pass' this time, it is likely that the Misty Cloud Sect will begin to have some large activity during this period of time." Mu Tie slowly said, "If the matter here were to spread to the capital, it is likely that there may be an uproar even in the imperial family. Looking at all of this activity, it seem that the situation that was written in a letter the Elders in the clan had given me is true."

"What situation?" Xiao Yan was startled as he asked.

Mu Tie face was tensed. He placed his teacup on the table. It was a moment later before he spoke in the deep voice, "It is likely that the Misty Cloud Sect wishes to attack our three large clans..."

Xao Yan knit his brows. Did the Misty Cloud Sect really intend to eliminate all the factions within the Jia Ma Empire?

"Of course, it is currently uncertain whether they will attack our Mu clan and the Nalan clan. However, there is one thing that is certain. The Misty

Cloud Sect will definitely start off with the Primer clan within a short period of time!” Mu Tie spoke with a solemn expression.

“Why?”

“Hee hee, brother Xiao Yan should know something about this. The old man Hai Bodong of the Primer clan has quite a deep relationship with you. Back then, the Primer clan even quietly aided you when you were chased by the Misty Cloud Sect. The Primer clan also intervened when the Xiao clan was surrounded by the Misty Cloud Sect. It was only because of this that the Xiao clan was not completely eliminated. Although the Primer clan acted in extreme secret when they made all their moves, it is likely that the Misty Cloud Sect is aware of them if even I am able to catch wind of something...”

“Moreover, for some unknown reason, the Misty Cloud Sect seems to be extremely interested in your Xiao clan and have been repeatedly searching desperately for the remaining members of the Xiao clan. However, their efforts have been futile. From the looks of it now, this should be because of the secret tactics by the Primer clan... hence, if they want to find the remnant members of the Xiao clan, the Primer clan, which is their protector, would definitely be a target of the Misty Cloud Sect.” Mu Tie smiled, fondled his chin, and responded.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. From the looks of the situation, he needed to hurry to the capital as soon as possible. Otherwise, not only would the Primer clan end up in the same trouble as the Xiao clan but the odds would also be against those remaining members of the Xiao clan who were under their protection.

“Currently, the capital should be in a turbulent storm. That place is far too close to the Misty Cloud Sect. The place would definitely be extremely chaotic should anything erupt there.”

“Big brother Mu Tie, I hope that you will keep my return to the Jia Ma Empire a secret. Moreover, you should tell those subordinates of yours not to leak any information. Otherwise, should it end up spreading to the ears of the Misty Cloud Sect, it is very likely that they will bring forward their

plans and increase their defenses.” Xiao Yan stood up from the chair, turned his head to Mu Tie, and spoke in a solemn voice.

“Aye. No problem.” Mu Tie nodded without hesitation. He said, “For insurance, I will delay reporting what happened at the border to the imperial family for a couple of days. Otherwise, they will definitely learn of your return.”

“In that case, thank you very much.” Xiao Yan cupped his hands together and smiled.

“Brother Xiao Yan, you... are you planning to head to the capital?” Mu Tie hurriedly stood up and asked when he saw Xiao Yan doing the same.

“We are pressed for time. I cannot stay here for long. I will come and chat with big brother Mu Tie once everything is settled.” Xiao Yan smiled, nodded, and gave his reply.

Mu Tie could not open his mouth to retain them when he heard this. He could only nod his head and personally send Xiao Yan and the others out of the hall.

Xiao Yan and the others flashed upon leaving the hall as they rushed to the Tiger Eagle Beast, which had remained in the air. Xiao Yan stood on its enormous head and cupped his hands toward Mu Tie below. He spoke with a loud and clear voice, “Big brother Mu Tie, you can just come and find Xiao Yan if you have any problems in the future.”

“Ke ke, brother Xiao Yan, take care of yourself on your trip to the capital. If possible, help take care of my Mu clan. Mu Tie will be ever grateful!” Mu Tie laughed as he spoke sincerely to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He waved his hand and the Tiger Eagle Beast let out a low roar. Immediately, it carried a wild wind as it swiftly rose higher into the air and eventually transformed into a black spot that disappeared on the horizon...

Mu Tie sighed softly as he watched Xiao Yan and the others disappeared into the horizon. He knew that the already turbulent capital might well be turned completely upside down with the arrival of Xiao Yan’s group...

# Chapter 678: Discussion in the Sect

The enormous mountain peak stood lonely and silent in a plain. The cloudy, tall mountain peak was just like a the tip of a blade, faintly emitting a sharp sword aura as it pierced through the clouds. Loud and clear training noises and the collision of metals were lingering within the fog.

The Misty Cloud Mountain was still the Misty Cloud Mountain from back then. However, the Misty Cloud Sect located on it had changed drastically from back then. The entire mountain peak was filled with a countless number of patrols. Anyone who stepped into it would be immediately observed by the hidden gazes. It was just like a mountainous fortress with extremely tight defenses.

This place was the enormous camp of the Misty Cloud Sect!

Due to the Misty Cloud Sect have recruited a large number of disciples, the current Misty Cloud Sect was undoubtedly much larger than it was compared to three years ago. This was the reason that they had enough people to truly put in place a tight defensive line with sentries three steps apart all over this enormous mountain peak.

Although the strength of the sect had become much stronger, not only did the outsiders but also some of those Misty Cloud Sect's disciples sensed that the current Misty Cloud Sect was no longer the place viewed by every person within the Jia Ma Empire as a training holy ground. After three years of varying actions by the Misty Cloud Sect, they had already become no different than an ordinary faction, using all fair and foul means in order to expand their strength.

The enormous base of the sect extended all the way to the edge of their sight on the peak of the Misty Cloud Mountain. Human figures were rushing about on the enormous open ground. Various curses and sounds of colliding blades gathered together. Even quite a bit of the faint fog that lingered in the sky had been expelled. The training holy ground back then no longer possessed that kind of ethereal and extraordinary atmosphere.

A grand hall stood at the middle of the mountain peak, much like a ferocious beast creeping up on this place. It faintly emitted a feeling of having gone through many changes and hardships. This grand hall had been passed down through the generations since the Misty Cloud Sect had been established. Hence, it still maintained some of the old ethereal feeling of the Misty Cloud Sect. However, the dark, cold faces of the white-clothed guards outside the grand hall created an additional gloomy feeling to the one that had remained around for a long time.

There were quite a number of people quietly sitting within the large hall. Their gaze contained some fear as they stared at the old man on the leader's seat. They did not dare to emit any unusual sounds.

The old man was wearing a white robe. Cloud lines had been sewn on the robe. Both of his sleeves had a sword drawn on them. When the sleeves moved, the sword image appeared real and a sharp sword aura faintly seeped out from it. The old man had a head covered with white hair but his face had a kind of faint smooth luster, appearing just like that of a young person.

The old man's shut eyes were slowly opened. A glow that caused one's body to feel a chill rushed through his indifferent eyes. Anyone who accidentally saw the glow within his eyes would immediately feel cold sweat flowing. They hurriedly shifted their gaze away, not daring to look directly at him.

Who else other than Yun Shan possessed such a reputation within the Misty Cloud Sect?

"Is there any news from Yun Fan's side?" The silence in the hall continued for awhile. Only then did Yun Shan slowly raise his eyes and faintly open his mouth to speak.

Everyone in the hall could not help but straighten their bodies after Yun Shan opened his mouth to speak. One of them hesitated for a moment before he replied respectfully, "Sect leader, Yun Fan has not sent any news back. I think that he is still waiting for an opportunity."

"It is just the 'Zhen Gui Pass', yet he actually needs to procrastinate to

such an extent.” Yun Shan knit his brows slightly and said, “Send this order to him. He must control the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’ within five days. Additionally, order the others in the remaining places to act according to the situation. We will not need to worry about them stirring any waves.”

“Yes sir!” Everyone hurriedly responded upon hearing Yun Shan’s orders.

“Ke ke, sect leader has made decisive and bold decisions these years. Without realizing it, the Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples have already seeped into all the major cities within the Jia Ma Empire. As long as the order is given when the time comes, it is likely that over half of the territory of the Jia Ma Empire will belong to us, the Misty Cloud Sect.” A middle-aged man spoke to Yun Shan with a smile. That smile was a flattering one.

“This is merely the first step. The footsteps of our Misty Cloud Sect will not stop at the Jia Ma Empire. Once we completely control the Jia Ma Empire, the Misty Cloud Sect’s strength will definitely soar. At that time, there would likely be no other factions within this north-western region of the Dou Qi continent who can contend with us. At that time, we only need to wait for the Misty Cloud Sect to become the overlords of the north-western region, it is only a matter of time for us to truly dominate the continent.” Yun Shan laughed. His eyes were filled with a wild ambition that did not match his age.

“Ke ke, sect leader is right. At last, our Misty Cloud Sect could at the very most be considered a mid-tier faction in the South-Western Region Factions Grand Meeting. I think that by the time of the next meeting, we will definitely cause the eyeballs of those who say our Misty Cloud Sect is short-sighted to fall off.” Agreeing laughter quickly followed behind Yun Shan’s words.

A faint smile was pulled on Yun Shan’s face. He waved his hand and said, “How is the progress of the matter that I have ordered?”

A person in the hall immediately stood up after hearing this. He respectfully said, “Relying on Sect Leader, we have gathered all the men we need. We are only waiting for sect leader’s order before we can enter the capital and completely eliminate the Primer clan!” He paused slightly

when he spoke to this point. After which, he spoke in a hesitating manner, “However, the Primer’s clan Hai Bodong has the strength of a Dou Huang. I’m afraid it won’t be enough if we simply rely on those people...”

“Yun Du, Yun Sha, the both of you will lead the troops to completely eliminate the Primer clan this time around. Remember, after you have eliminated the Primer clan, you must find the remaining members of the Xiao clan!” Yun Shan’s gaze looked toward a corner of the hall and cried out in a low voice.

“Yes sir!”

Two old men who had remained quiet in one corner swiftly stood up and respectfully replied when they heard Yun Shan’s orders.

Although these two old men kept a low profile, they clearly possessed quite a high position within the Misty Cloud Sect. This could be seen from how the voices in the hall became much weaker after they stood up.

“Ke ke, Elders Yun Du and Yun Sha had broken through to the Dou Huang class with the help of sect leader during these three years. That Hai Bodong won’t be able to create much trouble with these two people around.” The person who was reporting earlier smiled and spoke when he saw these two old men stand up.

Yun Du and Yu Sha also smiled when they heard the somewhat fawning words. They immediately looked at one another. A strange black glow flashed through their eyes without leaving a trace behind.

“Your mission is to exterminate the Primer clan and to search for the remaining members of the Xiao clan. It is likely that the other factions within the capital will not dare to intervene. Of course, if there are any factions who are blind, you can just exterminate them together.” Yun Shan’s gaze slowly swept across the entire place as he spoke in a faint voice.

Yun Du and Yun Sha once again nodded after hearing this.

Yun Shan leaned his body on the soft chair after he had given all his instructions. He waved his hand and said, “Since that is the case, everyone

should return to their posts. We will first eliminate the Primer clan during this period of time...”

Everyone in the hall hurriedly nodded after hearing these words dismissing them from Yun Shan. They immediately stood up, bowed to Yun Shan, and slowly withdrew from the large hall.

The hall once again became silent after everyone left. However, this silence continued for only a period of time before a shadow fluctuated in a certain dark corner in the hall. Immediately, a cluster of black-colored fog strangely appeared...

“Remember, you cannot let off any single person of the Xiao clan this time around! What you did the last time wasn’t very satisfactory.” The black-colored fog withered and surfaced in the middle of the hall as a dark sinister voice was slowly emitted from within it.

“What exactly do you want to find from the Xiao clan? It is but a small clan... yet they actually possess something that can attract you?” Yun Shan knit his brows. He had been curious about this question for a long time.

“It is best that you do not ask the questions you aren’t supposed to ask. There are some things that have no benefit to you if you come to know about them. Our ‘Hall of Souls’ is able to help you breakthrough to an expert Dou Zong, but we are also able to turn you back into your original state.” The dark, cold voice reverberated within the hall, causing one’s pores to stand.

Yun Shan’s face trembled slightly. The imposing and powerful manner of Yun Shan from earlier could only nod his head in a somewhat displeased manner at this moment. He said, “But what if we still cannot find the thing that you want after killing all the members of the Xiao clan?”

“The Xiao clan is definitely in possession of the thing that we need. However, we don’t know exactly who is holding on to it. If we cannot find it here, we can only go and search for Xiao Yan who fled the Jia Ma Empire.”

“Xiao Yan?” Yun Shan possessed a deep memory of this name. Hence,

his expression became somewhat unnatural when he heard it. He said, "There has not been much news about that brat during these three years. He might have long died in some unknown place..."

"Tsk tsk, I'm afraid that I will have to disappoint you..." The black fog immediately emitted a strange laugh when he heard this, "I have received some news from the hall some time earlier. Xiao Yan's trail was found in the 'Black-Corner Region,' which is thousands of kilometers from the Jia Ma Empire. Moreover, that fellow's strength is already sufficient to kill expert Dou Huangs."

"Kill Dou Huangs? How is that possible?" Yun Shan's expression immediately changed. He stood from his chair in shock as he let out an involuntary cry. Although that fellow had displayed a kind of extremely powerful fire lotus Dou Skill to kill Yun Leng whose strength was that of a Dou Wang, but killing a Dou Huang was a completely different concept. The gap between them was as different as the Heavens and Earth.

"This is nothing impossible... back then, it was a mistake for you to allow him to flee from the Jia Ma Empire. Hmph, in the future, you might really end up being killed by that brat's hands." The voice from the black fog was dark and cold.

Yun Shan's face twitched. A denseness surged into his eyes as he spoke in a sinister manner, "So what if he can kill a Dou Huang? Back then, I forced him to flee like a dog that had lost its home. This time around, I can do the same!"

"Tsk tsk, in that case, I will wish you luck. However, it is best that you capture all of the remaining members of the Xiao clan before this. Otherwise, the hall's chief will really be angry..." The black fog drifted around aimlessly. It left behind a cold laugh before it strangely disappeared with a ripple...

When he heard the two words: hall's chief, the face of even someone as powerful as Yun Shan became somewhat pale. He looked at the spot where the black fog had disappeared and he tightened his fist slowly. A dense, cold glint flashed in his eyes.

“This time around, I will definitely finish off the entire Xiao clan!”

# Chapter 679: Primer's Calamity

The Jia Ma Sacred City was the capital city of the Jia Ma Empire. Being the most bustling city of the entire empire, the human flow that it consumed and released each day had reached quite a frightening number. However, this bustling city had a somewhat pressuring atmosphere at this moment. There was the faint suppressed feeling of a storm brewing.

Such a feeling was naturally spread and created by the Primer clan, which had suddenly announced a temporary closure of all its auction houses and shops. This action by one of the three large clans of the empire undoubtedly indicated to everyone that quite a big trouble would fall on their heads.

The public did not lack some people who were well informed. Hence, there were some rumors spread that the Misty Cloud Sect had plans to exterminate the Primer clan.

This rumor immediately stirred up quite a big commotion within the city the moment it spread. The people of the Jia Ma Empire could clearly see that the Misty Cloud Sect was becoming increasingly arrogant these couple of years. Moreover, other than the imperial family, the only faction within the entire Jia Ma Empire that could cause the Primer clan, who had become the top of the three large clans, to act so cautiously was likely only the Misty Cloud Sect, which was a short distance from the capital...

The atmosphere within the headquarters of the Primer clan, which was situated toward the south of the city was exceptionally tense while the rumors were spreading all over the city. Anxious human figures paced back and forth in the mansion. All the guards had also been deployed back from the other places to guard this mansion extremely tightly. A countless number of arrow bunches that possessed cold flickering glints in the darkness were swaying unsteadily all over the mansion. The sharp long arrows would instantly be shot out upon the appearance of any uninvited guests!

While human figures were rushing about all over the mansion, the

atmosphere in the spacious meeting room in the center of the mansion was extremely tense. Everyone seated in that place were the core members of the Primer clan. At this moment, their expressions were mostly ugly. Of course, it was likely anyone in the Jia Ma Empire who suddenly become a target of the Misty Cloud Sect would have difficulty forming a smile on their faces.

“Ya Fei, is the news that the Misty Cloud Sect is about to attack our Primer clan true?” An old man in the hall frowned and inquired softly.

All the gazes in the hall shot toward the pretty woman who was seated in the leader’s seat when they heard the old man’s question. The latter’s enchantingly beautiful face was also covered with a solemn expression at this moment. She nodded slightly in the face of everyone’s eyes and said, “First Elder, this news is indeed true. It is likely that the Misty Cloud Sect will really act within two days!”

Although everyone already had an answer in their hearts, the faces of many people in the hall still became much darker upon hearing Ya Fei’s confirmation.

The face of the old man who was called First Elder was somewhat familiar. If one were to observe it carefully, one would realize that he was the head of the Primer clan back then, Primer Tengshan. However, hearing the manner in which Ya Fei addressed him, it seemed that he had handed over the position of the clan head during these three years...

Primer Tengshan slowly sighed when he heard Ya Fei’s words. He descended into a silence amid the desperate state of the clan.

“All of this is because of those fellows from the Xiao clan. If we did not help them, we would not have offended the Misty Cloud Sect and the problems today would not occur!” A somewhat sharp voice sounded under the pressure brought by the three words ‘Misty Cloud Sect’. Quite a number of agreement immediately followed when the voice sounded. Clearly, they were finally unable to suppress the thought in their hearts when disaster struck.

“All of you shut up!” Primer Tengshan immediately became furious

when he heard the noise in the Meeting Room. His palm slammed violently onto the table. The sudden loud sound shocked everyone into being quiet.

Primer Tengshan looked at the calm faced man who was seated in a wheelchair beside him after suppressing everyone. He immediately glanced at the somewhat icy-cold face of Hai Bodong with his eyes shut beside Ya Fei. He let out a bitter laugh and said, "Mister Xiao Ding, my clan members have lost themselves and allowed you to see a joke."

Xiao Ding smiled and shook his head when he heard Primer Tengshan words. His gaze slowly swept over everyone's faces. Anyone who exchanged gazes with him would involuntarily shift their gaze away a moment later. Although this man's legs were currently crippled, everyone would involuntarily feel some chillness for some unknown reason when they looked at the face where a faint smile was hung.

His clan was nearly destroyed and he had been turned into a state where he became a cripple who could only rely on his wheelchair. These sudden changes were sufficient to cause any ordinary person to become crazy. However, this man appeared to be totally unaffected. That manner was as though he was without emotion... this kind of person was indeed very frightening.

"First Elder Tengshan, this matter is indeed related to our Xiao clan..." Xiao Ding laughed. His gaze swept toward Primer Tengshan as he said, "If the Misty Cloud Sect really wants to attack the Primer clan, you can hand me or even half of the clan members to them. After which, you can announce that these are all the remaining people of the Xiao clan. Please try to think of a way to quietly let the other clan members leave. The Xiao clan might be met with a great calamity but some of our blood must remain!"

Many people in the hall were somewhat stunned when they heard Xiao Ding's words. The coldness in their hearts became more intense as they looked at the smile hanging on the former's face. With a casual tone, he had handed himself and half of his clan out. This tactic could not be described as being not vicious.

Primer Tengshan's eyelids also twitched at Xiao Ding's words. He deeply looked at the smiling Xiao Ding before he quietly spoke in his heart, "He might be young but he has stayed absolutely rational. The Xiao clan need not be worry that it cannot prosper with such talent. Unfortunately..."

"Little fellow Xiao Ding, you can rest assured that no one will hand you over. Even if I have to risk this old life of mine and half of the Primer clan, the old me will ensure nothing will happen to you!" An ice-cold voice suddenly sounded. Everyone raised their heads and saw that Hai Bodong had unknowingly opened his eyes. Those somewhat lush blue eyes had a cold glint currently flickering in them. Everyone who had any objection had no choice but to wisely swallow the words in their mouth in the face of this cold glint.

"Old Hai..." Xiao Ding was startled. His eyes, which were like an old well without ripples, also began to fluctuate a little. He clearly understood in his heart that if Ya Fei and Hai Bodong had not tried their best to protect them within the Primer clan, it was likely that the Xiao clan would have already lost their protection. However, he did not expect that Hai Bodong was still this stubborn after things had developed until this stage. He was even willing to lose half of the Primer clan.

"Old Hai, are you still waiting for third brother to return..." Xiao Ding laughed bitterly before he softly sighed. At this moment, even he no longer had such a great confidence. Perhaps, he could only hope that Xiao Yan would be able to return in the future and help take revenge for the Xiao clan.

"Ha ha, I have confidence in that fellow..." Hai Bodong laughed out loud. His gaze immediately glanced at Primer Tengshan by the side and coldly snorted, "All of you only know how to be short-sighted like a mouse. Do you think that the Misty Cloud Sect has really decided to attack us, the Primer clan, because of the Xiao clan? It is not as though you are unaware of their activities these few years. The three large clans of the empire and even the imperial family. Hmph, just wait and see who will be able to luckily escape."

Primer Tengshan was silent. He immediately laughed bitterly and sighed.

How could he not be aware that the current Misty Cloud Sect was showing signs of cleaning up the factions in the empire. However, it would be for the best if they could delay this a little longer... he might think in this manner within his heart but he did not dare to give voice to it. Hai Bodong was the true Grand Elder within the clan. There was no doubt about his credit in enabling the Primer clan to possess its current status. Even he dared not dispute him. Of course, if Hai Bodong did not possess such a great reputation within the Primer clan, with just Ya Fei's ability alone, she would have difficulty controlling the clan regardless of how capable she was.

"What should we do now? Why don't we request for help from the Mu clan, Nalan clan, the Alchemist Association, or the imperial family?" Primer Tengshan sighed again.

"It's useless..." Ya Fei shook her head. Her delicate finger gently knocked on the table as her bright eyes swept over the large hall. She said, "The Misty Cloud Strength is currently too great. Even they don't dare to provoke them. If they really wanted to help us, they would have sent people over without us requesting for help. If they don't wish to or don't dare to, any request for help will not aid the situation."

"Then... do we just sit here and wait to die?" Some people in the hall could endure it no longer as they asked.

Ya Fei raised her eyes, turned her head and spoke to Primer Tengshan, "First Elder, in order to prepare for the worst, I have already quietly sent some of the younger generations of our Primer clan out of the capital to protect our clan's bloodline. If it really comes to that stage, I'm afraid that other than surrender, we can only fight to our deaths!"

"Ugh, girl, you have indeed thought ahead to actually prepare our clan's escape route. However, that kind of situation... is also too terrible," Primer Tengshan was startled when he heard this. It seemed that he had just become aware of these things.

"Surrender... I don't think that our ending will be any good if we do so."

"Bang!"

Primer Tengshan sighed again. He was just about to speak when the entire Jia Ma Empire's sky suddenly emitted a rolling-thunder-like explosion.

The explosion continued on endlessly, causing the entire city's gaze to be thrown onto the sky. At this moment, a cloud that was agglomerated from energy was formed at the source of the explosion. By the side of the cloud was a longsword that was emitting a sharp aura as it pierced straight into the former.

"This is the Misty Cloud Sect's signal..." The entire city erupted into waves of exclamation as they looked at the special energy mark in the sky. Some sensitive people displayed shocked faces. Did this Misty Cloud Sect really want to attack the Primer clan?

Quite a number of people swarmed out of the hall within the Primer clan. They looked at the mark in the sky and their expressions immediately turned pale-white.

"Primer clan, hand over the remaining members of the Xiao clan. Otherwise, today will be the day your clan is eliminated!"

A cold, indifferent cry was carried by a powerful Dou Qi as it resounded like thunder throughout the entire Jia Ma Sacred City not long after the mark appeared!

# Chapter 680: Blood Bath

The thunder-like cry carried some Dou Qi as it reverberated through every single corner of the Jia Ma Sacred City. Countless numbers of people raised their heads at this moment. They threw their gaze in a certain direction. The rising Dou Qi there was just like a surging sky pillar.

Ya Fei, Hai Bodong, and the others from the Primer clan rushed out of the hall. Their expressions were solemn as they observed the spot where Dou Qi had erupted.

“What do we do now?” Primer Tengshan asked in a deep voice.

“What else can we do? Since we don’t wish to surrender, we can only fight to our deaths!” Hai Bodong coldly snorted. A faint, cold air lingered around his body. Under the cover of this cold air, the deep-blue color in his eyes also became much darker.

“Everyone listen up, guard your posts securely. Do not panic. There is no need to report if anyone intrudes. Just kill!” Ya Fei’s pretty face was ice-cold. Her eyes contained an evilness as her cold cry spread throughout the entire Primer clan.

Hai Bodong nodded slightly as he watched Ya Fei transmitting the command in an orderly fashion and swiftly stabilized the somewhat panicked situation. He immediately narrowed both his eyes and coldly studied the spot where Dou Qi had erupted. Both of his fist under his sleeves were slowly tightened.

“Old roan Yun Shan. Since you want to destroy my Primer clan, the old me will injure your bones and let you bleed!”

While the members of the Primer clan were solemnly waiting, an orderly stern cry was suddenly emitted from the spot within the Jia Ma Sacred City where the Dou Qi had erupted. Everyone in the city immediately saw a large group of white-robed individuals surging out in all directions from a certain spot before bounding and rushing above the buildings of the city. When the white robes fluttered in the wind, the special cloud sword image on it allowed one to identify them as people belonging to the Misty Cloud

Sect!

“Hiss... it is unexpected that the Misty Cloud Sect actually sent over so many people. It seems that he really wants to eat the Primer clan in one bite.”

Quite a number of people inhaled a breath of cool air as they looked at those white robes which were rushing over buildings like fleas. There was immediately some pity and indigent thoughts given out. The Misty Cloud Sect was really too arrogant to attack with such fanfare.

The white robe unit was just like a white-colored torrent that surged over from the northern part of the city. Finally, they moved in all directions, surrounding the spot where the Primer clan was located. That momentum and aura was such that it was likely that the Misty Cloud Sect had dispatched at least a thousand people. A scale like this was comparable to a small-sized army.

The entire capital became like a boiling pot of oil when the white-colored torrent surged by. It completely turned into an uproar. Countless numbers of people also leaped onto the roofs and remained a great distance behind this torrent. Finally, they stopped just as their eyes were able to see the Primer clan as they looked for a place with a good view to begin watching this big event that was the most sensational one in the Jia Ma Empire within the last century.

The three large clans of the Jia Ma Empire had been established in the empire quite a long time ago. During these years, the three large clans had become increasingly stronger and an ordinary clan would have difficulty surpassing them. The Misty Cloud Sect's attack on the Primer clan was undoubtedly a collision of the greatest scale that had occurred within the Jia Ma Empire in the last couple of decades!

The hearts of quite a number of people were filled with curiosity with regards to such a collision between the strong. Hence, before the Misty Cloud Sect's white torrent had arrived at the Primer clan, some of the surrounding tall areas were already filled with black masses of human heads.

“Big brother Xiao, you should hide in a corner if a fight were to break out later...” Ya Fei looked at the white-colored wave that was sweeping over from the distant before turning her head as she reminded Xiao Ding who was seated in a wheelchair.

“What is the use of hiding in a corner at that time? Moreover, do you really think I am really that kind of person who is too weak to fight?” Xiao Ding smiled and shook his head at Ya Fei’s good intention. He immediately raised his hand and an unusual rich-green Dou Qi, that was filled with life, swiftly surged out and covered his fist.

“Huh? You have advanced to a Dou Ling? When did this happen?” Hai Bodong by the side was immediately startled when he saw the aura that Xiao Ding suddenly unleashed and he asked with some surprise.

“Since I am unable to feel my legs, I can only quietly train. Hence, my progress is quite good... it is just that I usually do not unleash my Dou Qi so everyone is unaware of it.” Xiao Ding smiled as he replied.

“It is good that you have the ability to protect yourself. If the situation turns for the worse later, you and Ya Fei should seek an opportunity to flee... it is not a wise decision for all of us to die here. If that is the case, even if the Primer clan is totally exterminated, there will be someone who will seek revenge for us in the future.” Hai Bodong nodded as he suddenly whispered.

Xiao Ding and Ya Fei were startled when they heard Hai Bodong’s words. They were about to say something when the former’s expression became completely solemn as he said, “They’re here...”

The two people followed his voice and raised their heads. Their eyes looked around, only to see that some of the buildings outside this mansion were filled with a countless number of white-robed human figures. Their hands uniformly held sharp longswords that reflected a dense, cold glint under the sunlight. The glints scattered on the mansion, causing one to feel a chill all over one’s body.

“The two of you should command the interior of the mansion. I will lead people to block the people from the Misty Cloud Sect.” Hai Bodong spoke

to Ya Fei. His feet immediately pressed on the ground and his body shot to the sky. Behind him, Primer Teng Shan hurriedly let out a loud cry after seeing this. After which the numerous strong clan members of the Premier clan followed closely. Finally, they flashed and appeared on the exterior of the mansion, facing off against the large unit of the Misty Cloud Sect.

Hai Bodong's body was suspended in mid-air. His shoulders shook and a pair of ice Dou Qi wings were extended out from his back. Both of his wings were flapped to keep him in the air. Both of his eyes contained an iciness as they looked at the white-colored wave of the large Misty Cloud Sect's unit. Powerful Dou Qi surged out from his body. Following the flow of Dou Qi, a majestic aura shrouded the sky and an unusual pressure covered a radius of a hundred meters.

Given Hai Bodong's Dou Huang class strength, the aura that he unleashed not only caused some commotion within the large Misty Cloud Sect's unit but the numerous observers on the surrounding tall buildings also let out waves of exclamations. Being one of the few elite Dou Huangs that one could count with one's fingers within the Jia Ma Empire, Hai Bodong's reputation had once again recovered to a level similar to his peak back then.

"Hai Bodong, don't bother putting up a resistance. Are you actually thinking of turning the tide with your own strength? If you are sensible, you should quickly hand over the remaining members of the Xiao clan!"

Two sharp cries suddenly erupted from the city just as Hai Bodong's aura surged. Immediately, two auras that were comparable to the former suddenly appeared.

The rushing sound of wind quickly followed when these two auras surfaced. Finally, two rays of light drew through the sky in front of a countless number of gazes, and eventually appeared in the air outside the Primer clan.

The two people who appeared also had an elderly appearance. They wore white robes with drawings of clouds. The two powerful auras were

clearly emitted by these two people.

The two Elders from the Misty Cloud Sect who had suddenly appeared also attracted gazes from all over the city. This was especially when they sensed the pressuring feeling that was faintly released from within the bodies of these two people. Some shock surged in the hearts of quite a number of people. These two people were actually all elite Dou Huangs? Since when had two additional Dou Huangs appeared in the Misty Cloud Sect?

Hai Bodong's eyes were focused intently on these two people after their appearance. This was especially when his gaze swept toward the faces of the two of them. His heart was immediately greatly shocked. A low, deep voice that carried some disbelief resounded across the sky, "Yun Du? Yun Sha? How could the two of you have advanced to the Dou Huang class?"

"Hee hee, don't tell me that only you can advance to a Dou Huang and others cannot?" That old man who was called Yun Sha laughed coldly when he heard Hai Bodong's words.

"Old Hai, these two old fellows were at most four star Dou Wangs three years ago. How could they breakthrough to the Dou Huang class in three short years?" A human figure flashed toward Hai Bodong side. It was Primer Tengshan. At this moment, his face was also filled with disbelief as he looked at the two people in the distant sky.

Hai Bodong's expression was gloomy. He narrowed his eyes as his gaze swept over Yun Du and Yun Sha. A moment later, he shook his head and said, "The aura of these two aren't quite right. Although their aura might appear to have reached the Dou Huang class, their breaths are far inferior to the mellow and natural feeling of an elite Dou Huang. I think that Yun Shan must have used some strange Secret Technique to forcefully raise their strength..."

"What should we do now?" Primer Tengshan hurriedly spoke. Even though Yun Du and Yun Sha were not true elite Dou Huangs, it should not be difficult for one of them to delay Hai Bodong. The remaining person was clearly going to be extremely difficult to stop given his strength.

Moreover, once those Misty Cloud Sect's disciples outside were to unleash an attack, it was likely that those experts within the clan would not be able to hold out for long.

"What else can we do? Don't tell me we should surrender at such a time?" Hai Bodong frowned and coldly reprimanded. He immediately spoke in a deep voice, "I will try my best to kill one of them as quickly as possible. After which, I will help you kill the other person. As long as these two leaders are killed, we need not be afraid of the other Misty Cloud Sect's disciples!"

Primer Tengshan laughed bitterly. They could only do this given the current situation. However, even if they were defeated today, they would be considered to be honorably defeated in front of the eyes of so many people!

"Hai Bodong, I will ask you once again. Are you going to hand over the people today?" Yun Sha's gaze was dark and cold as shouted while he glanced at Hai Bodong and Primer Tengshan, who were suspended in the sky above the mansion.

"The actions of the Misty Cloud Sect these few years has really shamed all of your ancestors! Is that old roan Yun Shan not afraid that his ancestors will come after him to settle the score?" Hai Bodong laughed and ridiculed.

Yun Sha and Yun Du's expressions also completely sank when they heard this. The two of them raised their hands in front of the countless number of gazes. An instant later, they suddenly swung them down. A cold cry that was filled with killing intent also resounded across the sky as their hands fell.

"Misty Cloud Sect's disciples, listen up. Today, we will bath the Primer clan in blood!"

Dense, cold sword auras suddenly surged from the white-colored torrent of people as the cries of the two people sounded. It blotted out the sun and covered the entire city!

# Chapter 681: Bloody Battle

Chi! Chi!

The moment Yun Du's cry sounded, the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples, which had completely surrounded the Primer clan until nothing could pass through, immediately carried a sharp sword aura and charged toward the enormous mansion like a tiger that had just descended from its mountain. The cries of killing intent that instantly erupted caused the faces of the many surrounding observers to become pale.

"Kill!"

A clear, cold cry also resounded just as a countless number of Misty Cloud Sect's disciples swarmed toward the Primer clan like flood water. Immediately, one could hear the sound of bows being strung throughout the mansion. A moment later, countless arrows tore through the air, transforming it into raining arrows that swarmed over the white-colored torrent!

The raining arrows quietly blocked some of the attacking momentum of the Misty Cloud Sect. However, soon after, countless clusters of bright Dou Qi surged and the effects of the arrows were greatly diminished. Using this momentum, that white-colored torrent moved much closer to the mansion. Some of the faster people were already in close proximity to the mansion itself.

Pop! Pop!

However, there was once again the unusually low, deep sound of bows being drawn just as the Misty Cloud Sect's attack had entered within a hundred meters of the mansion. After which, numerous arrows, blood-red in color, suddenly shot explosively from the mansion!

These blood-red raining arrows clearly possessed a great difference compared to the ordinary raining arrows from earlier. This could be differentiated from the sound that was emitted when the arrow's body flew through the sky. Moreover, when these raining arrows struck a Misty Cloud Sect's disciple, the Dou Qi that was lingering on the surface of their

bodies clearly did not pose much of a hindrance to the arrow. Instead, due to the overly great strength, the remaining strength of the arrow after it penetrated one's body would even penetrate through the body of the person behind. This kind of frightening arrow attacking strength caused the people watching from afar to feel a chill all over their bodies.

The blood-colored arrows shot out wildly and left behind a faint imprint in the sky. Each time an arrow shot out, it would caused quite a number of Misty Cloud Sect's disciples to weakly fall to the ground. From the looks of it, the Primer clan, being the top of the three large clans in the Jia Ma Empire, was not a soft persimmon that others could pinch as they like. Even with the strength of the Misty Cloud Sect, it was impossible for them to eliminate the Primer clan without sacrificing some blood.

The few people in the sky did not get distracted by the ferocious fight that had already started below. That Yun Du and Yun Sha paused in the air for a moment before the two of them moved their bodies at the same time. After which, they rushed toward Hai Bodong!

Seeing that the two actually charged toward Hai Bodong, Primer Tengshan immediately cried out coldly, "Two old bastards, have you forgotten about me?"

"Hee hee, Tengshan, how would we dare to forget about you? There is no need for Elders Yun Du and Yun Sha to get involved when dealing with you. Let them calmly finish off Hai Bodong." Primer Tengshan's voice had just sounded when two figures suddenly flew out from the large Misty Cloud Sect's unit below. Finally, they flapped their wings and were suspended at a spot not far from Primer Tengshan.

"Yun Fu? Yun Xu? It is really unexpected that even the both of you have come!" Primer Tengshan's heart immediately sank when he saw the sudden appearance of these two people. These two people were also Elders from the Misty Cloud Sect. Although they were not as strong as Yun Du and Yun Sha, they were still experts of the Dou Wang class. From the looks of it, the Misty Cloud Sect had really put in the capital in order to deal with the Primer clan.

“Sect leader’s patience with your Primer clan has already reached the limit. Hence, don’t blame us. We are only acting on orders.” These two people seemed to be acquainted with Primer Tengshan. Hence, there was a helplessness in their faint voices.

Primer Tengshan’s face was dark and gloomy. His eye looked in the direction where Hai Bodong was located. Yun Du and Yun Sha had already approached the latter while Yun Fu and Yun Xu had blocked him. The three powerful auras from their bodies caused the Dou Qi in his body to be unable to circulate smoothly despite him being some distance apart. An elite Dou Huang was indeed far from what an ordinary Dou Wang could compare with.

“You should be careful, I will deal with these two people. You should just take care of yourself!” While Primer Tengshan was worried about Hai Bodong, the latter’s deep voice had been transmitted to him.

Primer Tengshan could only put down the worry in his heart when he heard this. His gaze turned toward his opponent in front of him. With a flip of his hand, a powerful Dou Qi surged out from his body. His strength might not be comparable to Hai Bodong but it was not something that should be underestimated.

“Sorry to offend you!” Yun Fu and Yun Xi did not dare to slight their opponent as they sensed the energy ripple that had already erupted from Primer Tengshan’s side. They cried out toward Primer Tengshan before immediately flapping their wings. Turning into a black shadow, they rushed toward the latter.

Primer Tengshan looked at the two human figures rushing over with gloomy eyes. A pride that had not appeared for many years also surged within his heart as he laughed to the sky, “Alright. Today, even if our Primer clan cannot escape this calamity, I will also severely hurt your Misty Cloud Sect!”

After the laughter sounded, the pair of Dou Qi wings on Primer Tengshan’s back were flapped and he charged toward Yun Fu and Yun Xu in front of a countless number of gazes without any fear. An instant later,

a thunder-like energy explosion resounded across the sky above the Jia Ma Sacred City!

The entire capital had at this very moment, thrown all their gazes toward this great battle between the strong. This battle would determine the survival of the Primer clan!

While the Primer clan and the Misty Cloud Sect had begun this life and death struggle, there were a couple of places within the capital which were completely silent.

There were a couple of human figures quietly standing on a tall tower situated within the imperial city, which allowed one to overlook the entire city. Their gazes were studying the soul-stirring battle that had erupted in the distance.

The person who stood at the front was an old man in a linen robe. The old man's face was filled with wrinkles. At this moment, that old man's face, which was usually like a rippleless old well, was currently filled with an unending struggle and uncertainty.

"Great grandfather, are we really going to do nothing?" A tall, young lady in a purple gown, who was standing behind the linen-robed old man with a somewhat stern look on her pretty face, finally spoke after being unable to resist any longer while watching the great battle in the distance. Looking at the purple-gold phoenix crown on her head, that represented her status, it seemed that her status was quite high.

"Yao Ye, you should also know just how strong the Misty Cloud Sect currently is. If we were to anger that old roan Yun Shan..." The linen-robed old man sighed as he replied

Yao Ye, this tall, elegant woman who wore a purple-gold phoenix crown on her head, was surprisingly the elder princess of the imperial family whom Xiao Yan had met a few times back then.

"But great grandfather, you should also know just what kind of wild ambition the actions of the Misty Cloud Sect these couple of years have contained. We might still be able to contend with them if we were to join hands with the Alchemist Association and the three large clans. However,

if we were to sit back and watch them be eliminated by the Misty Cloud Sect one at a time, it is likely that our imperial family will eventually end up with the same fate!” At this moment, this female emperor, who was already gradually starting to manage the entire empire, knit her eyebrows and spoke somewhat anxiously.

Jia Lao was silent in the face of Yao Ye’s sharp words. That Yun Shan was ultimately a heavy rock that was pressing on his heart. He clearly knew that it was likely not very difficult for that old roan to kill him given the former’s strength. Once he died, the imperial family would lose his protection. At that time, it was likely that the danger that faced them would likely be even greater. Hence, it was still extremely difficult for him to decide even in the face of such a crucial moment.

“Ugh, let’s wait and see...” Jia Lao still sighed after a long silence. He waved his hand and looked at the energy fireworks that had erupted in the sky not far away with a dark expression.

Some helplessness and disappointment flashed across Yao Ye’s bright eyes when she saw that Jia Yao was still acting so indecisively at such a moment. She lifted her eyes and looked in the direction where the Primer clan was located. She could only pray in her heart that the top of the three large clan could create a miracle and survive this attack by the Misty Cloud Sect.

An old man wearing an alchemist robe looked at the spot where energy was exploding with flickering eyes on the roof of a building in the Alchemist Association. He would occasionally tighten and relax his fist. Clearly, his heart was not calm.

“Chairman Fa Ma...” Another elderly man behind this old man, who was also wearing an alchemist robe, could not help but open his mouth to speak.

Fa Ma, who also had some relationship with Xiao Yan back then, was still managing the Jia Ma Empire’s Alchemist Association three years later.

“Let’s wait first...” Fa Ma shook his head slightly as he spoke with a

hoarse voice.

“Ugh...” The old man behind could only sigh softly when he heard Fa Ma’s words.

The core members in the Nalan clan were also standing on a tall building looking at the fight that had erupted in the distance. The person who was standing in the leader’s spot with an uncertain expression was naturally the strongest person within the Nalan clan, Nalan Jie!

“Father, this matter...” Nalan Su revealed a solemn expression as he softly spoke behind Nalan Jie.

“Wait!” Nalan Jie tightened his old face. It was a long while later before he spat out this word. He similarly did not dare to offend the enormous being known as the Misty Cloud Sect. Although Nalan Yanran was also a member of the Misty Cloud Sect, not only had Yun Yun been placed under house arrest but Nalan Yanran had also entered the so-called ‘Gate of Life and Death’. There had been no news of her for three years. Even he did not know whether she was dead or alive.

“Ugh, hopefully, the Misty Cloud Sect will let our Nalan clan off on account of Yanran...” Nalan Su bitterly laughed as he quietly spoke in his heart. However, at that time, the dignity of the Nalan clan would be completely lost.

A similar hesitation and struggle was also enacted in the Mu clan, which was one of the three large clans. However, the final conclusion was that not a single person dared to step forward and say something at such a moment. This was because they knew that on the Misty Cloud Mountain located in close proximity to the capital, there was still an elite Dou Zong who had the strength to eliminate any clan, Yun Shan!

At such a moment, all they could do was place their hope on a miracle. If the Primer clan was able to endure this, the other few factions would have the courage to discuss a collaboration with them by relying on the momentum of this victory...

While the Primer clan and the Misty Cloud Sect fighting entered into a white hot state, over ten enormous flying Magical Beast were swiftly

rushing through the sky over a hundred kilometers from the Jia Ma Sacred City. A force that would shake the entire Jia Ma Empire was about to arrive!

# Chapter 682: Rush to the Capital!

Clang!

Blades that were dyed in fresh blood collided, erupting into waves of sparks. Human figures flashed and the low, deep sound emitted when the blade cut across flesh creepily sounded outside of this mansion, which was filled with the sounds of killing.

After a couple of rounds of charging and killing, the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples had endured a couple of waves of counter attacks by the Primer clan. The true close combat collision erupted the moment they began to charge into the outer yard of the mansion!

Although the Misty Cloud Sect had recruited a large number of disciples during these few years, they were naturally unable to train them into very strong individuals within a short period of time. The Primer clan, however, was different. Most of the clan's guards were elites who had been specially trained for many years. Hence, even though they were outnumbered when the close range fight erupted, the Misty Cloud Sect could only fight in the outermost part of the manor regardless of how wildly they charge around. They had difficulty charging into the inner part of the manor.

At this moment, this enormous manor was impregnable under the tight defense of the Primer clan. Although the Misty Cloud Sect had come charging menacingly, they were still repelled outside of it.

The external surroundings of the manor had already been completely turned into a bloody meat grinder. Knives and swords came and went. Sharp miserable cries sounded incessantly. Fresh bright-red blood scattered in all directions. It dyed the tall manor walls into looking as though it was covered by a red curtain. A pungent bloody scent slowly spread before diffusing throughout the city!

A countless number of observers who were on the tall points around this battleground had already descended into silence amid this miserable killing. They watched both parties repeatedly fall into the pool of blood like wheat being cut. Despite this, that white-colored wave-like attack did

not show any signs of stopping. The members of the Primer clan within the manor also repeatedly surged out with fierce faces. Finally, their eyes turned blood-red as they violently collided with the white-colored wave!

At this moment, these people, who were observers, could clearly sense just how cheap human life was.

“Bang!”

An intense energy explosion suddenly sounded in the sky. All the gazes in the city looked over and immediately saw Primer Tengshan being forced back by Yun Fu and Yun Xu. From the looks of the situation, it seemed that Primer Tengshan was struggling a little to deal with two expert Dou Wangs given his strength.

The wings on Primer Tengshan’s back were flapped. Only then did he stabilize his figure. He wiped away the trace of blood on the corner of his mouth after having suffered a slight injury in the intense battle earlier.

“Tengshan, stop putting up a stubborn resistance. Although, the two of us are no match for you based on individual strength, you will only end up losing when the two of us join hands.” Yu Fu slowly stabilized the shocked Dou Qi in his body and cried in a deep voice after seeing Primer Tengshan forced back.

Primer Tengshan was not concerned about Yun Fu’s cry. He turned his head and his gaze looked to the battle circle of Hai Bodong. At this moment, the fight at that spot was even more intense than the area he was currently in. Blurry human figures flashed in the sky, emitting earth-shaking energy ripples when they occasionally collided.

Although an ordinary person had difficulty clearly observing the fighting situation, Primer Tengshan was able to clearly see it. At this moment, the fight between the three people might be extremely intense, but it was still somewhat difficult to tell who would end up victorious.

Although Yun Du and Yun Sha’s Dou Huang strength was not very pure, their strength would naturally be multiplied since the two of them had joined hands. Moreover, it was not the first time that the both of them had collaborated as shown by how their collaboration was very much in sync.

In fact, they were able to maintain a situation where they were not losing despite their individual strength being much weaker than Hai Bodong's strength.

At this moment, the fight between Hai Bodong and the other two had clearly entered a white-hot stage. Any activity in the outside world was unable to distract them. Their eyes only watched the other party's flashing figure.

"It is really unexpected that Yun Du and Yun Sha have already become so strong that they are able to avoid being defeated when fighting Old Hai..." Primer Tengshan's heart sank slightly when he saw the situation where it was difficult for a victor to be decided. From the looks of it, Old Hai might need quite a long time in order to defeat those two fellows. Moreover, the situation on his side was not favorable. If he were accidentally defeated, Yun Fu and Yun Xu might well enter that other battle. At that time, the situation might well become one-sided.

"I must delay these two fellows and give Old Hai sufficient time!" Primer Tengshan clenched his teeth. He took the opportunity when the breath of the two were not too stable to glance at the extremely intense killing below.

At this moment, the external part of the manor below had been completely dyed in fresh blood. The disciples of the Misty Cloud Sect and the guards of the Primer clan had engaged in a miserable fight for every inch of land. Although the strength of the guards of the Primer clan was a little stronger than these ordinary disciples of the Misty Cloud Sect, the latter won in terms of numbers. Their torrent-like attack from all directions charged at the defensive line of the Primer clan with all its might. More than half of the external yard of the manor had already been lost under this kind of all out charging.

The situation was somewhat unfavorable but it was fortunate that there was Ya Fei and the others giving commands within the manor. Hence, it did not appear too chaotic. Numerous clearly distinct defensive line covered this enormous manor. It was likely that the Misty Cloud Sect would have to suffer quite the losses in order to destroy all of these

defensive lines!

“What face do I have to live if I were to lose the family’s property left behind by my ancestors?” Primer Tengshan withdrew his gaze from the ground and laughed toward Yun Fu and Yun Xu.

Yun Fu and Yun Xu once again shook their heads when they heard this. They immediately ceased giving Primer Tengshan the opportunity to rest and reply. With a flap of the wings on their back, they drew two arcs across the sky and once again attacked the latter from both the left and right!

The sounds of energy explosions in the sky grew increasingly clearer as the three people once again exchanged blows. The hearts of a countless number of people in the city were gripped following this rolling-thunder sound. They were afraid that Dou Qi would fall from the sky and blast them apart.

A fight erupted once again!

With the flow of time, the killing sound that resounded across the Jia Ma Sacred City had gradually diminished a little. Clearly, this true all out blood fight exhausted both parties.

The stubborn resistance of the Primer clan had indeed caused the Misty Cloud Sect to pay a bloody price. However, signs of reinforcements being unable to keep up began to appear under the torrent-like attack of the Misty Cloud Sect. Within a short ten plus minutes from when the sign appeared, the outer yard of the Primer clan manor was completely occupied by the Misty Cloud Sect. Although attempting to attack and occupy the inner yard was still extremely difficult. The destruction of the Primer clan was only a matter of time in the face of such exhaustion.

However, there was an unexpected change in the air while the Primer clan was doing its best to stubbornly defend below. This caused the hearts of all the clan members of the Primer clan to sink.

“Grug!”

After an intense battle in the sky, Primer Tengshan was unable to block

Yun Fu and Yun Xu as he had intended. Instead, the two of them had seized the opportunity while he was momentarily distracted to unleash a truly heavy blow!

Primer Tengshan's face turned pale as he received the complete force of Yun Fu's and Yun Xu's attack. A mouthful of bloody fog was involuntarily spat out in front of a countless number of gazes. His body had also swiftly descended and was only received by a member of the Primer clan, who had reacted quickly, just before he hit the ground.

"First Elder!"

The defeat of Primer Tengshan immediately stirred waves of exclamation within the manor. At this moment, the hearts of everyone began to fluctuate. If Ya Fei had not stepped forward to suppress it in time, it was likely that this defeated panic would have burst out from the their inner core.

Yun Fu and Yun Xu did not remain still after defeating Primer Tengshan. Although they had greatly exhausted the Dou Qi in their bodies, they could not recuperate at this moment. Hence, once Primer Tengshan had landed on the ground and lost his fighting ability, these two people immediately moved their bodies and charged into the battle circle where Hai Bodong was located amid the exclamation of the entire city.

Everyone knew that if two Dou Huangs and two Dou Wangs were to join hands, even someone of Hai Bodong's strength would definitely be unable to fight them. Defeat was only a matter of time!

What they had predicted was not wrong. Not long after Yun Fu and Yun Xu joined the battle circle, Hai Bodong, who was originally attacking and defending well, swiftly descended into a disadvantage and threatening signs appeared!

The expressions of some people within a few parts of the capital also completely sank as they watched the situation in the sky. The miracle they had hoped for did not happen...

Jia Lao's gaze was firmly watching the one-sided battle in the sky from the tall tower of the imperial city. His shriveled right hand under his

sleeves emitted a cracking sound. An instant later, however, when he recalled the frightening fellow in the Misty Cloud Sect, Jia Lao's body once again became feeble. His face had become much older at this moment.

He really did not have the slightest confidence to defeat that old roan within the Misty Cloud Sect. If he were to intervene and help Hai Bodong today, it was likely that the Misty Cloud Sect would turn its blade on the imperial family tomorrow!

Yao Ye, who was wearing a purple-black gown while standing behind Jia Lao, was also looking at the battle in the distant sky. The back of her teeth clenched tightly on her lower red lip. She knew in her heart that once Hai Bodong was defeated, the Primer clan would have completely lost its ability to resist today. This leader of the three large clans in the empire would be completely eliminated. Once the Primer clan was destroyed, who in the empire would dare to step forward and contend with the Misty Cloud Sect since they would become more arrogant because of this?

"Hai Bodong is about to lose!"

Suddenly, Jia Lao began to slowly speak with bitterness. He gradually shut his eyes. In the future, this Jia Ma Empire would belong to the Misty Cloud Sect!

The distant sky appeared to have become silent the instant Jia Lao spoke these words. Four human figures attacked one after another. The monstrous energy that merged together was something that would cause Hai Bodong to be seriously injured even with his strength. Moreover, as his fist moved, that aura was completely locked onto Hai Bodong. Hence, the combined attack of these four people was something that he was no longer able to escape from!

At this moment, all the gazes in the entire city were gathered on the sky. Even the fight in the manor had paused at this moment...

During this momentary standstill, some sharp-eyed people were faintly able to see the helplessness and despair that was contained on Hai Bodong's face.

Yao Ye's entire body turned ice-cold as she looked at the scene in the

sky. This Primer clan was completely finished today. Soon after, it would likely be their turn...

The entire city was completely silent. The fist aura in the sky which contained the combined strength of the four people completely wrapped around the city. That feeling of pressure caused one's pores to open wide.

Suddenly a clear whistle rolled over from afar while a countless number of people were absent-minded. The whistle was initially extremely vague, appearing intermittently as though it did not exist. An instant later, it suddenly arrived and thundered within the entire city like a thunderclap from the heavens!

This thunderclap roar caused the fist aura of Yun Du and the three others that had enveloped the entire city to immediately fall apart!

Jia Lao, who had originally shut his eyes in despair on the tall tower suddenly opened his eyes at this moment. His eyes were filled with disbelief as he looked in the direction the roar had come from. An aura that caused even him to feel somewhat pressured at that location was drawing through the air and heading over at a lightning fast speed. Moreover, the thing that caused his heart to suddenly billow was that this aura had a familiar feeling to it!

Jia Lao was startled for an instant. His eyes suddenly widened as his body trembled with great force because of his excitement. Even his voice carried a quivering tone.

"This aura... is him? That fellow... has that fellow really returned?"

# Chapter 683: Debt Collection!

Naturally, Jia Lao was not the only one who had discovered the sudden arrival of the clear rolling-thunder. At the same time, the few leaders who possessed quite a strong faction within the empire revealed stunned faces as they looked in the direction the roaring sound had come from.

However, other than the Head of the Alchemist Association, Fa Ma, the other people did not possess sharp senses. Hence, they naturally had difficulty identifying the person who had arrived. Even though this was the case, the majestic Dou Qi that was contained in the roar caused their expressions to change drastically. This kind of strength was something that even the old demon Jia Xing Tian in the imperial city could not be compared with. Since when had such a strong person appeared in the Jia Ma Empire.

The couple of them were not the only ones who had gained such questions. Everyone in the capital was completely stunned. Clearly, there was not a single person aware of just when an expert, who possessed such a strength, had appeared in the Jia Ma Empire.

The clear roar was just like thunder that rolled and arrived. Doubt had flashed in everyone's heart when silver-colored lightning suddenly rushed over from outside of the capital. The speed of this silver-colored lightning was so fast that it was frightening. Even the few elite Dou Wangs could only vaguely see a silver glow flash and disappear in the sky. A storm brewed within their hearts.

The silver glow rushed across the sky. It shot from outside to inside the city within a short instant. Finally, the glow flashed and a human figure which was completely covered in a jade-green flame appeared in the battleground in the sky in a ghost-like manner. The spot in he was occupying was surprisingly in front of Hai Bodong.

Only after that eye-catching jade-green fire figure appeared in the sky did the people all over the city below let out an alarmed cry. From the looks of the situation, it seemed that the clear roar a moment ago was emitted by this mysterious person? Moreover, from the spot in which he

was standing in, it seemed that he was here to help Hai Bodong?

Although it took some time to describe it, only a short two to three seconds had passed from the sounding of the clear roar to the appearance of the mysterious jade-green fire person in front of Hai Bodong. Due to the frightening speed of the latter, the ferocious fist of Yun Du and the three others, accompanied by fluctuating air, still violently approached after he had appeared in front of Hai Bodong!

The appearance of the jade-green fire human figure instantly caused Hai Bodong's face to become stunned. He moved his body only to discover that Yun Du and the three others lock on him had unknowingly been undone. He was startled for a moment before immediately coming to an understanding. This was an act done by the mysterious person in front of him. However, at this moment, he naturally did not have the time to inquire about the other party's origin. He could only cry out loud, "Friend, be careful of their attack!"

The jade-green fire figure did not turn around in the face of Hai Bodong loud cry. All he did was randomly wave his hand.

"You actually dare to meddle in the Misty Cloud Sect's affairs? You are seeking death!" The sudden appearance of the jade-green fire human figure also caused Yun Du and the others to be startled. However, they quickly discovered the other party's intention and their faces immediately turned gloomy. The moment the cold cry sounded, the aura of the fists that had the combined force of the four of them immediately soared. The humming sound of sharp rushing wind resounded across the city, causing one's eardrum to feel a wave of piercing pain.

The attack which had gathered the full strength of two Dou Huangs and two Dou Wangs had a power that even Jia Xing Tian could only afford to dodge. However, that jade-green flame human figure remained in the sky. His expression was solemn, but he did not move. From the looks of it, he seemed to be intent on receiving the attack from the four people head-on.

Numerous exclamations immediately sounded from the city below when they saw the actions of his. Was this fellow who had suddenly appeared

not overextending himself? It should be known that his opponent was not an ordinary strong person but two Dou Huangs and two Dou Wangs. They were strong people who even Ice Emperor Hai Bodong could only back away from!

This was not only the case for the ordinary people below. Even the expressions of Hai Bodong and those experts who had been observing this place from certain spots in the capital changed slightly when they saw the actions of this mysterious person. From the looks of the frightening speed that this person had displayed earlier, it was clearly not difficult for him to dodge this attack. However, he still chose to receive it head-on. If one did not have absolute confidence in receiving it head-on, one was a fool to do this...

Would such a strong person be a fool? The answer was obvious. No!

The sharp fist glow that had gathered the full force of Yun Du and the three others burst air apart within a ten meter radius and formed a vacuum region under the countless number of gazes from the capital. That terrifying glowing fist rushed toward the jade-green fire figure with a speed that was difficult to sense with one's naked eye!

The air fled in all directions wherever the fist glowed passed, causing this space to appear extremely distorted!

The jade-green fire person finally reacted when the terrifying glowing fist was about to approach his body. His fist was slowly extended out. Finally, the bones in his arm trembled and a frightening force swiftly agglomerated within an extremely short period of time. Finally, it suddenly erupted amid a low and deep cry!

“Octane Blast!”

The fist that was wrapped by a flame did not appear beautiful. However, a stone appeared to have been thrown into the air around just as the fist was about to be unleashed, forming wave after wave of ripples!

“Bang!”

Both fists shook and suddenly collided in front of a countless number of

tiny eyes. Everything was momentarily still before a thunder-like explosion suddenly resounded across the sky. A wind ripple immediately swept in all directions like an ocean wave!

The fists separated upon contact in front of numerous gazes. The flame human figure swayed a little before withdrawing a couple of steps in order to resolve the force. Yun Du and the other three on the opposite side were like sandbags that had been sent flying in the shocked eyes all over the city. They flew back by over a hundred feet before they stabilized their bodies in a somewhat miserable manner!

The sleeves on their hands were immediately blasted apart when they stood up, revealing their naked arms. Clearly, Yun Du and the three others not only failed to gain the advantage in this collision, but they were even miserably defeated under the fist of the mysterious man!

The entire city was completely silent at this moment! Regardless of whether it was the manor of the Primer clan which was filled with fights or any other place, everyone was looking at the sky with stunned faces. The scene a moment ago gave them a kind of dream-like feeling.

Crushing a joint attack by two Dou Huangs and two Dou Wangs with one's own strength. It was likely that only Yun Shan alone possessed such a strength in this large Jia Ma Empire!

Yet, it was extremely obvious that this mysterious person was not Yun Shan. In that case... just who was this mysterious expert who was completely wrapped within a flame?

At this moment, there were countless number of people who were draining their minds trying to guess the identity of this mysterious person. Unfortunately, their efforts were to no avail!

Hai Bodong also revealed a stunned expression as he looked at the flaming human figure not far away. Although he could guess that the strength of this person was quite strong, he did not expect that this person was not only able to withstand the combined attack of Yun Du and the other three but also possessed the additional strength to shatter the sleeves of these four people. Such a strength was indeed terrifying!

Silence continued in this city for a moment before it was finally broken by Yun Du's somewhat sharp, fearful voice.

"Just who are you? Please tell us your name!"

Yun Du and the other three people exchanged glances with one another. Their eyes contained shock. After the earlier lightning-like contact, they were vaguely able to guess that the fire figure in front of them had a strength that was definitely even more frightening than the old demon Jia Xing Tian in the imperial city! Why was it that their Misty Cloud Sect was totally unaware that such a powerful person had appeared within the Jia Ma Empire?

"Ke ke, after having not met for three years, it is really unexpected that the Misty Cloud Sect still specializes in bullying others with numbers..." The cluster of flames covering the human figure in the sky finally emitted clear laughter.

A countless number of people were startled when they heard the laughter from the flaming human figure. Hearing this voice, they were certain that this mysterious person was not very old.

An ordinary person might only be surprised at how young it was when they heard this laughter. However, when this laughter landed in the ears of Ya Fei and Xiao Ding, who had lifted their heads in the manor below, it caused the bodies of the both of them to suddenly stiffen. They widened their mouths slightly and slowly turned their heads to exchange glances with each other. A moment later, they were able to see disbelief surging out from deep within the other party's eyes.

Being an old man, Hai Bodong naturally did not feel anything special toward that voice. However, he was vaguely able to sense a familiar feeling to it. However, he was unable to find any answer despite knitting his brows and savoring it.

"This friend, don't think that you can act recklessly just because the four of us are unable to do anything to you. There is no one in this Jia Ma Empire who dares to provoke our Misty Cloud Sect!" Yun Du's expression had become very gloomy as he spoke with a stern voice when he heard the

ridicule from the voice of the fire figure.

“You should reveal yourself if you have the ability. Hiding your head, exposing your tail, and sneaking about is not what an expert should do!”

The fire figure once again emitted soft laughter after hearing Yun Du’s cold cry. Immediately, everyone sensed that the jade-green flame that was lingering on his body was slowly disappearing.

The city, where private conversations had just broken out, once again became strangely quiet when they saw this scene. Numerous gazes looked at the sky without blinking. Everyone was curious to learn who this mysterious expert was.

Of course, it was not only the ordinary people who possessed this thought. Both parties who were fighting within the Primer clan’s manor, those in the imperial city, the Alchemist Association, Nalan clan, Mu clan... the people from all these places were staring intently at the sky with large eyes!

The flame on the fire human figure gradually disappeared under the eyes of a countless number of fiery hot gazes. The skinny figure within it slowly appeared in front of everyone’s eyes.

Ya Fei raised her pretty face and looked at the somewhat familiar back from the Primer clan’s manor. Her delicate hands involuntarily covered her mouth. A fog surged in those bright eyes because of her excitement.

It really is him? He has returned!

“Chi!”

The flame finally disappeared completely following a slight sound. The black-robed, young man who was carrying a heavy ruler in the sky flapped the jade-green fire wings on his back as he remained suspended in the sky.

“Ke ke, it’s been three years...”

“Misty Cloud Sect, Xiao Yan from the Xiao clan has come to collect your debt!”

The black-robed, young man remained suspended in the sky. His soft

laughter slowly reverberated through the sky, causing the expressions on the faces of everyone in the city to completely solidify!

# Chapter 684: Giving Others The Taste Of Their Own Medicine

The laughter reverberated through every single corner of the capital like a devil's curse, causing everyone's body to suddenly stiffen. They became just like statues, unable to move...

Xiao Yan?

This name which had already become somewhat foreign caused the faces of many people in the city to be at a loss after hearing it. Three years was enough time for people to forget many things. Of course, this kind of faded memory needed only a small trigger in order to allow it to once again return to everyone's mind.

Under this soft laughter, the faces of many people continued to be at a loss for a moment before waves of exclamations were suddenly emitted.

"Xiao Yan? He is that fellow who had turned the Misty Cloud Sect upside down three years ago?"

"Wasn't it said that he had died while being chased by the Misty Cloud Sect?"

"Nonsense! He was only chased out of the Jia Ma Empire by the Misty Cloud Sect. However, it is really unexpected that he has already become this strong in these short three years. It is really too terrifying..."

"The Xiao clan seems to be the clan destroyed by the Misty Cloud Sect right?"

"Hee hee, didn't you hear what he had just said, he has come to collect debt. The Misty Cloud Sect, tsk tsk, looks like they need to be prepared to repay the blood debt! This Xiao Yan was able to turn the Misty Cloud Sect upside down three years ago and even killed their First Elder. From the looks of his attack just now, it is clearly much stronger than three years ago. Hee hee, looks like this Misty Cloud Sect cannot be arrogant for much longer..."

Private conversations from all over the city were repeatedly spread. Within only a short period of time, this information was spread throughout the capital. The black-robed, young man carrying the heavy ruler in the sky had once again been found in the memories of everyone from three years ago.

.....

Jia Lao watched the black-robed, young man flapping his jade-green fire wings in the sky from the tall tower within the imperial city. Even though he had identified the latter through his aura earlier, this guardian of the imperial family still let out a long sigh when he saw Xiao Yan truly reveal his identity. A glow flickered within both of his eyes. He smiled and spoke in a manner as though he had removed a heavy burden, "How unexpected, how really unexpected. This fellow has actually returned once again. Ha ha, it is likely that it won't be so easy for the Misty Cloud Sect to fulfill its wild ambitions this time around!"

"Great grandfather, he is..." Yao Ye slowly recovered from the shock of the person in the sky defeating Yun Du and the three others with one punch. Her eyebrows became vertical when she heard the somewhat familiar name as she spoke.

"Do you still remember the Yan Xiao from the Alchemist Grand Meeting back then?" Jia Xing Tian laughed.

A glow flickered in Yao Ye's eyes. She had also recalled that renowned person within the capital three years ago. Shock drew across her elegant, pretty face, "It is actually him... was he not chased out of the Jia Ma Empire by the Misty Cloud Sect?"

"Ke ke, he can naturally return after leaving..." Jia Lao laughed and said, "I told you back then that this person was definitely not an ordinary person. Tsk tsk, three years ago, his true strength was but that of a Da Dou Shi. Now, however, from the sharpness and speed that he had displayed when he intervened earlier... it is likely that even I am no match for him!"

Yao Ye was immediately stunned when she heard this. She was extremely clear about Jia Xing Tian's strength. The only person in this

entire Jia Ma Empire who could defeat him was likely that old roan from the Misty Cloud Sect. However, no matter how one put it, Yun Shan was an expert who had been training for many years. Yet, this Xiao Yan was merely around twenty years old even if they rounded up his age!

An elite Dou Huang who was only around twenty years old. Even with Yao Ye's cool head, just thinking about this caused her to be momentarily absent-minded. This fellow was indeed frightening...

"Great grandfather's eyes are indeed very sharp. Fortunately, we did not gain any enmity with him..." Yao Ye gently patted her voluminous breasts as she spoke in a rejoiced manner.

"Ugh, actually back then I did think that this fellow would definitely be extraordinary in the future but I never expected that he is able to reach this level within just three short years..." Jia Lao sighed. A gloating expression immediately surfaced on his face as he said, "However, this is just as well. The Misty Cloud Sect has destroyed the Xiao clan and has already become irreconcilable enemies with Xiao Yan. In this way, Jia Ma Empire has an additional strong person like Xiao Yan. Hee hee, I no longer need to be overly worried about Yun Shan!"

"Yao Ye, remember, make contact with Xiao Yan after today's matter is over. At the very least, we must let him gain a favorable opinion of our imperial family." Jia Lao mused for a moment before suddenly speaking.

An unusual glow flickered within Yao Ye's eyes as she looked at the black-robed, young man flapping his jade-green fire wings in the sky. This fellow, could really be considered a great genius favored by the heavens...

"I suggest that we immediately maneuver our army to suppress the Misty Cloud Sect's attack. Although acting at this moment could not be considered to be delivering charcoal in a snowstorm, it is better than waiting for everything to settle. It is likely that the effect of trying to show our goodwill will be extremely weak at that time." Yao Ye fluttered her eyelashes gently and spoke in a gentle voice. However, she was displaying an impressive schemingness. She naturally possessed a mind that an ordinary person could not compare with in order to be groomed as the

female emperor of the Jia Ma Empire.

TL: delivering charcoal in a snowstorm – lending a hand when another needed it the most

Jia Xing Tian hesitated a little upon hearing this before nodding heavily. He knew that he would be somewhat stupid if he were to still be indecisive at such a moment. Now that the Jia Ma Empire possessed a strong person like Xiao Yan, they would have some chances of victory even if they were to end up fighting with Yun Shan in the future.

Yao Ye immediately rejoiced when she saw Jia Xing Tian nod his head. She immediately ceased speaking any nonsense and immediately began to give the command...

At the Alchemist Association, Fa Ma exhaled a breath that was suppressed in his chest. He lifted his head and studied the black-robed, young man in the distant sky. A smile was revealed on his old face. He also knew that Xiao Yan's sudden appearance would break the situation where the Misty Cloud Sect dominated the Jia Ma Empire.

“This fellow is indeed not an ordinary person. Yun Shan, allowing him to flee back then might well be the thing that you regret the most in your entire life.”

....

The Mu clan. The head of the Mu clan, Mu Cheng, also slowly withdrew his gaze from the sky and turned his head to look at all the core members of the Mu clan. He could not resist proudly laughing, “All of you have short-sighted mouse eyes. Back then, all of you found so many excuses when I said to quietly lend Xiao Yan a hand. Does it now feel good to have a slap thrown on your faces? Ha ha!”

All the clan members in the Mu clan could only smile bitterly and nod their heads when they saw the proudly laughing Mu Chen. All of them helplessly moaned in their hearts. Who was able to imagine that the fellow who was being chased like a dog that had lost its home back then would actually be able to reach a stage where he could truly challenge the Misty Cloud Sect within a short three years?

Compared to the various laughs in the other few areas, the atmosphere in the Nalan clan appeared exceptionally stiff and depressing. This depressing atmosphere was emitted from the completely stiffened Nalan Jie's body after that soft laughter of Xiao Yan's sounded.

Nalan Su also bitterly sighed as he looked at Nalan Jie, whose face was so stiff that he appeared like a dry corpse. That expert in the sky who could reverse the entire situation of the Jia Ma Empire had nearly become their son-in-law back then...

"Father..." Nalan Su finally could not resist whispering a moment later.

"Ugh..." A sigh which was filled with dense bitterness was slowly emitted from Nalan Jie's mouth. He waved his hand in a depressed manner and said, "Although I am not certain if Xiao Yan will still pay attention to us at this moment, we should try our best to make contact with him for the sake of our clan."

"Father, it's all because of Yanran's selfish, young character. Otherwise..." Nalan Su could not help but say when he looked at Nalan Jie's dejected manner.

"We cannot put the entire blame on her. Back then, Xiao Yan helped me expel the poison, but we did not help him when he ended up being chased after by the Misty Cloud Sect because we were afraid of the latter. It is likely that Xiao Yan will not forget about this matter given his character. Hence, I am also responsible for these matters..." Nalan Jie smiled sadly and mocked himself, "It is really unexpected that in my old age my eyes would become this blind and my heart this muddled..."

Nalan Su was silent. He could sense just how much regret was in Nalan Jie's heart at this moment... However, there was no medicine for regret that they could purchase in this world...

The black-robed, young man, who was carrying the heavy ruler in the sky, slowly turned around. He studied the completely stunned Hai Bodong not far away. He smiled slightly and slowly bowed, "Old Hai, thank you for taking care of the Xiao clan these few years."

"Xiao Yan?" Hai Bodong muttered. A moment later, he finally recovered

and looked at the somewhat familiar young face. A wild joy gradually surged onto his face, “You brat, you have finally return!”

Xiao Yan also smiled when he saw Old Hai’s extremely excited face. However, he did not have the time to go into the details when a cry filled with disbelief was transmitted over, “Xiao Yan? How can it be? You are actually still alive?”

“I will first dispatch these people here before conversing more with Old Hai.” Xiao Yan smiled to Hai Bodong before turning his head and looking at the faces of disbelief of Yun Du and the other three people not far away. He laughed softly, “How can I die so easily when I have yet to kill old dog Yun Shan with my hands? Back then, I said that I, Xiao Yan, will return once again...”

Yun Du’s expression changed rapidly. Xiao Yan’s sudden appearance had completely broken their initial plan. However, it was fortunate that this fellow was exactly the same as he was back then. There was only him alone. Given the enormous faction of the Misty Cloud Sect, this fellow would not gain anything even if he were to return!

“Arrogant brat. There is no need for the Sect Leader to act if we want to deal with you! We have already taken precautions to deal with any person who blindly comes to create trouble!” Yun Du raised his head and suddenly let out a cold laugh. He immediately and swiftly took out a signal container from his storage ring and pulled at it with a great force. A gorgeous firework suddenly charged up and spread apart in the distant sky!

A couple of stern whistles suddenly sounded from outside of the capital not long after the fireworks exploded. Immediately, five rays of light swiftly drew through the sky and appeared in the sky a moment later!

The city immediately emitted waves of exclamation following the appearance of the five human figures. One could see five bright Dou Qi wings. These five people were actually all experts of the Dou Wang class! It seemed that the Misty Cloud Sect had truly put in a great effort in order to eliminate the Primer clan without any obstacles!

Seven Dou Wangs, two Dou Huangs. This kind of frightening lineup once again caused the entire city to emit a sound of the inhalation of cool air. This Misty Cloud Sect faction was indeed extremely frightening. From the looks of it, even with the return of a strong person like Xiao Yan today, one would have difficulty obtaining much of an advantage.

“Are you going to rely on larger numbers again? Indeed, a dog cannot stop itself from eating shit.” Xiao Yan was also startled when he saw the nine human figures suspended in the sky. However, he immediately laughed with some interest.

“Xiao Yan, be careful, you cannot be careless!” Hai Bodong swiftly rushed to Xiao Yan’s side and spoke with a solemn expression.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He immediately raised his gaze and looked at Yun Du on the opposite side. Suddenly he laughed, “Do you think that I will still suffer the same disadvantage that I suffered back then without making any preparations?” Xiao Yan suddenly clapped his hands softly after saying this. That clap was just like thunder that swept across the sky.

Yun Du and the others were stunned when they saw Xiao Yan’s actions. An instant later, the sound of rushing wind suddenly sounded from Xiao Yan’s back.

The gazes of the entire city were hurriedly shifted when the sound of rushing wind appeared. Finally, numerous gazes became dull as they looked at the sky outside of the capital. Over ten human figures were swiftly rushing over from that direction. The Dou Qi wings on the backs of these people were so bright that they appeared extremely dazzling.

“Next, let us give you a taste of your own medicine...”

The expressions of Yun Du and the others instantly turned pale when Xiao Yan’s teasing laughter sounded!

# Chapter 685: Start a Massacre

The rays of light flew across the sky and appeared in the sky above the capital a moment later.

Over a dozen human figures were flapping the Dou Qi wings on their backs as they eventually sat and waited while surrounding Yun Du and the others in a semicircle shape in front of the dull gazes of the entire city. Their faces all contained some ridicule.

The entire city once again became silent at the appearance of these ten plus human figures with wings extending from their backs. Countless numbers of people were stunned as they looked at the large Dou Wang unit that had suddenly appeared. Over ten expert Dou Wangs? This lineup... many people quietly inhaled a breath of cool air. Their heads began to feel giddy. There were at most only a couple of dozen expert Dou Wangs in the entire Jia Ma Empire. However, they were actually able to see so many of them today!

The expressions of Yun Du's group had turned pale-white at the appearance of these ten plus human figures. Their eyes were filled with shock and disbelief. Only at this moment did they truly feel a kind of terror. The current Xiao Yan already possessed a frightening strength that could shake the Misty Cloud Sect...

"Xiao Yan... are all these your people?" Hai Bodong was also shocked by the sudden appearance of such a huge lineup as he anxiously asked.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded.

Hai Bodong only sighed in relief upon seeing Xiao Yan nod his head. Joy immediately surged in his heart. He used his strength to pat Xiao Yan's shoulders and smiled as he said, "Good fellow. You are indeed no longer that reckless little fellow back then. You actually know how to gather an army now."

Xiao Yan laughed softly. He raised his eyes and looked at Yun Du's group on the opposite side. A coldness surfaced in his dark-black eyes, "Ke ke, two Dou Huangs, seven Dou Wangs. Very good... it is really unexpected

that the Misty Cloud Sect has served such a big gift the moment I return. Since that is the case, I shall unceremoniously receive it.”

The expressions of Yun Du and the others became even uglier when they felt the dark, cold killing intent that seeped from Xiao Yan’s words. From the looks of the situation, it was likely that they would meet their end today. Although the Misty Cloud Sect was in close proximity to the capital, there was still a distance between the two of them. Even with their speed, they would require at least half an hour to hurry to the Misty Cloud Sect. This amount of time was already sufficient for this group of theirs to completely perish in this place.

“Ha ha, Xiao Yan, are these people the so-called members of the Misty Cloud Sect? This style is indeed extraordinary. Sending out seven Dou Wangs and two Dou Huangs when they act. This lineup could be considered quite a strong force even when placed in the ‘Black-Corner Region’.” Lin Yan’s gaze was filled with interest as he spoke to Xiao Yan with a bright laugh while looking at Yun Du’s group a short distance away.

Xiao Yan smiled and immediately waved his hand gently. His simple words containing dark, cold killing intent chilled a countless number of people.

“Leave no one!”

“Yes!” Lin Yan and the others nodded heavily after hearing Xiao Yan’s words. Immediately numerous powerful Dou Qis that were not weaker than the Misty Cloud Sect’s Dou Wangs erupted from their bodies. Finally, they flapped their wings and cut through the air, transforming into numerous blurry, black figures containing a sharp wind as they charged at the somewhat anxious Misty Cloud Sect’s expert.

“Xiao Yan, aren’t you afraid of being choked to death by trying to swallow us in one go!” Yun Du’s heart also pounded wildly when he saw the cold sternness of Xiao Yan as he waved his hand. Threads of wildness immediately surged onto Yun Du’s eyes as he furiously spoke.

“All Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples, prepare for an all out fight! We will

completely lay waste to the Primer clan even if we have to fight to our last man!”

The Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples below who had paused because of the activity in the sky immediately emitted an orderly cry after hearing Yun Du’s furious roar. They once again waved their weapons and charged toward the interior of the Primer clan like a torrent. Under this wild attack by the Misty Cloud Sect, the defensive lines within the manor were swiftly torn apart!

“Old Hai, I will leave those two Dou Huangs for you to handle. Leave the remaining Dou Wangs to the others!” Xiao Yan frowned slightly when he saw the swaying defensive line of the manor, which was about to fall apart. He turned his head toward Hai Bodong and spoke softly. Only Lin Yan and some expert Dou Wangs had appeared this time around. Xiao Yan did not allow Medusa, Old Yin Gu and the other expert who were of the Dou Huang class or stronger to appear at this moment. There was always a need to hold something back no matter what one did. Exposing all of one’s trump cards to the Misty Cloud Sect the moment he returned was an extremely foolish act. The current Xiao Yan would naturally not do this.

“Aye, no problem!” Hai Bodong nodded without any hesitation when he heard this. Knowing that the situation was urgent, he did not say any unnecessary words. The ice wings on his back were flapped and he rushed out before charging into the chaotic battleground in the sky, completely blocking the two Dou Huangs Yun Du and Yun Sha.

The dark-green flames on Xiao Yan’s back also moved a little after he saw this. After which, he rushed to the manor below.

“Clan head, the Misty Cloud Sect is about to break into the inner yard. We are unable to defend any longer!”

Anxious cries repeatedly spread from the chaotic manor while the sky descended into a big battle.

“Everyone hold on, don’t engage in head on fights with them. Archers, prepare the ‘Qi Breaking Arrows’!” Ya Fei also hurriedly cried out as she

looked at the swiftly broken defensive lines from the within the manor. Faced with the human-sea-like attack of the Misty Cloud Sect, even they...

“Clan head, there are less than a hundred ‘Qi Breaking Arrows’ left!” A guard hurriedly said when he heard Ya Fei’s orders.

“Use all of them!” Ya Fei’s eyebrows were vertical as she cried out loud. However, her cry had just sounded when a black figure abruptly flashed down from the sky.

The black figure landed on the ground and the black-robed, young man carrying a heavy ruler smiled toward Ya Fei, revealing his white teeth. “Ya Fei jie, you have become even prettier than I last saw you three years ago...”

TL; jie – older sister

Ya Fei was somewhat absent-minded as she looked at the young face which had gained an additional maturity compared to three years ago. At this moment, it was as though the anxious cries that were repeatedly transmitted from her surroundings had disappeared. A sourness gradually surged onto Ya Fei’s nose and her eyes also became a sleek red. Her somewhat hoarse, yet moving voice was emitted from her red mouth, “You horrible brat, you are still willing to return?”

“These three years, you have worked hard because of the Xiao clan...” Xiao Yan sighed as he looked at the mist forming in her alluring peach blossom eyes. He knew that the pressure Ya Fei carried during these few years was quite great. If not for Old Hai’s support, it was likely that she would be unable to endure on...

The little grievances that Ya Fei originally felt in her heart instantly disappeared like a smoke when she heard this low voice that contained some apology. She cracked a smile that was so enchanting that it could enrapture an entire city...

“That’s right... quickly come and see your older brother!” Ya Fei suddenly recovered and hurriedly moved her body aside. Behind her was a long-haired man who was seated on a wheelchair. His eyes, which were usually calm and indifferent, were filled with a gentle and faint excitement at this

moment.

“Big brother?” Xiao Yan was startled. His gaze hurriedly turned to the man who had half of his face covered by his long hair.

“Xiao-yan-zi... you have finally returned. Ke ke, good little fellow. You didn’t disappoint big brother. You are the glory of the Xiao clan and father.” Gratification surfaced on the corner of Xiao Ding’s mouth as he spoke softly when he saw Xiao Yan, who appeared even more mature than he did three years ago.

Xiao Yan quickly walked to Xiao Ding’s side. A wild joy surfaced on his face. However, when his gaze swept toward the wheelchair that Xiao Ding was sitting on, his eyes instantly narrowed and his body also swiftly became dark and cold, “Big brother, your leg?”

“Ke ke, I’m fine. My leg is poisoned and has become completely crippled. Fortunately, there is nothing wrong with my head and hands.” Xiao Ding laughed as replied.

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth tightly as he looked at the faint smile on Xiao Ding’s face. He could imagine just how difficult his big brother’s life was during these couple of years when he was protecting the remaining members of the Xiao clan...

“Big brother, it has been hard on you these few years...”

Xiao Yan slowly knelt beside Xiao Ding. His eyes were completely red. The hoarse voice of his was finally unable to suppress the emotion in his heart.

A large rough palm slowly rubbed Xiao Yan’s head. Xiao Ding smiled and slowly spoke with a warm voice, “Third brother, I am not the only one who has suffered. Don’t tell me that you have lived these three years well?”

Xiao Yan’s sleeves wiped his eyes with all his strength. He raised his head and laughed, “It was alright. However, big brother will not need to suffer in the future.”

“Ke ke, I hope that is so. Alright, brat, just what do you look like crying in

public. Moreover, now is not the time to reminisce about old times.” Xiao Ding patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders and reprimanded with a smile.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He stood up from the ground, turned his head, and softly spoke to a similarly red-eyed Ya Fei by the side, “Ya Fei jie, thank you very much. Leave the Misty Cloud Sect outside to me.”

Xiao Yan did not wait for Ya Fei to reply after he said those words. His body flashed and appeared in the air above the manor.

“Hey... be careful. There are too many of them.” Ya Fei hurriedly cried out when she saw Xiao Yan rushed into the air.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. His gaze immediately turned toward the white-colored torrent outside. A cold, dark ruthlessness flashed across his eyes. With a wave of his hand, a cluster of dark-green flame surged onto his hand. Both of his hands pulled at the flame and the dark-green flame transformed into a cluster of green-colored flame and a cluster of invisible flame.

With a flick of his finger, the green-colored flame shrank into Xiao Yan’s palm. That cluster of invisible flame, however, suddenly expanded greatly...

“Ya Fei jie, tell the members of the Primer clan to withdraw... there is no longer a need for these defensive lines.” Ya Fei was startled when she heard the voice that was transmitted from the air. She did not hesitate as she waved her delicate hand. The members of the Primer clan who were defending the defensive line swiftly withdrew.

With the withdrawal of the Primer clan members, the white-colored torrent immediately surged in and began occupying most of the manor from all directions.

“Puff!”

A slight puffing sound suddenly appeared just as the disciples of the Misty Cloud Sect wildly occupied the manor. Flames suddenly and strangely surged out of the body of a Misty Cloud Sect’s disciple who was at the front of the white torrent. Immediately, his entire person turned

into a pile of ashes in the blink of an eye and burst apart.

The strange fire that had suddenly appeared caused everyone to be startled. However, while everyone was still startled, numerous low, solemn explosive sounds repeatedly rang out!

Puff! Puff! Puff!

Hence, the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples, who had swarmed into the manor, were turned into burning people one after another in front of the countless number of shocked eyes belonging to the observers both in and outside of the manor. They finally burst apart in a strange manner. None of them emitted a miserable cry because of their imminent death from the beginning until the end. The entire place only had the soft muffled sound that was emitted from the bursting apart of flesh...

At this moment, an unusual cold darkness lingered in the hearts of a countless number of people...

# Chapter 686: Sweep Away

Puff! Puff! Puff!

The low, deep of a physical body exploding repeatedly resounded within the enormous manor. This sound was like the sickle of a death god. Without exception, a Misty Cloud Sect's disciple would turn into ashes each time it sounded.

The Misty Cloud Sect's disciples swarmed toward the innermost layer of the manor like floodwaters. The people behind were completely unaware of the unexpected changes that had occurred at the front due to their limited vision. Hence, when their swarming momentum gradually entered a certain boundary, the sickle of the death god sliced over...

A terror and disturbance finally spread in all directions as an increasing number of Misty Cloud Sect's disciples' bodies strangely auto-ignited. Hence, the atmosphere fell greatly, spurred on by the terror. Finally, they were unable to endure any longer and began to wildly withdraw...

The white-colored torrent that had just come surging over like floodwaters once again fled miserably in all directions a moment later. Their panicked manner was as though they were afraid that the strange auto-ignition would descend upon them.

Hence, the enormous attack of the Misty Cloud Sect began to self-destruct without being attacked under this strange auto-ignition of bodies. Fear and shock was present on everyone's faces. Something that could kill someone without shape and color had an even easier time eroding a person's courage compared to sharp knives and swords.

When the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples fled for their lives out of the outermost part of the manor, the unusual phenomenon of the auto-ignition of bodies gradually began to disappear. However, at this moment, the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples had already suffered serious losses. During that terrifying time of auto-ignition earlier, at least half of the people were turned to dust in an extremely strange manner...

The manor was covered by a kind of grayish-white powder as the Misty

Cloud Sect's disciples withdrew in a torrent-like manner. Due to the large amount of it, it had resulted in a layer that was as thick as a finger. The powder danced when the breeze blew over. The entire sky was adrift with terror and bizarre danger, giving one the creeps.

Both the inside and outside of the entire manor had turned into a dead silence under this treacherous feeling. Just a moment ago, half of the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples had been turned into powdery ashes in less than ten minutes. Regardless of whether it was the members of the Primer clan, the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples, or the surrounding observers, all of them felt a chill over their bodies as though they were in an abyss...

This scene was really too terrifying for them.

After the silence continued for a moment, numerous gazes finally began to turn to the black-robed, young man, who was carrying a heavy ruler, in the sky. At this moment, the latter was slowly extending both of his hands. If one were to carefully look at his hands, one would be able to vaguely see clusters of invisible flames fiercely burning above it. From the looks of the situation, it was clear that the earlier frightening auto-ignition frenzy was caused by him!

The Misty Cloud Sect's disciples who withdrew from the manor displayed shocked and terrified faces as they looked at Xiao Yan in the air. That manner was as though they were looking at a vicious, bloodthirsty demon. The viciousness of the latter's tactics earlier was enough to leave behind a phobia in their hearts, one that was difficult to eliminate. This devil-like human figure would follow them like their shadows, appearing occasionally in their hearts. It caused their hearts to be filled with fear.

The members of the Primer clan within the manor looked at the powder outside of the manor's courtyard. They, too, involuntarily swallowed a mouthful of saliva. Their gazes looked at one another with their eyes filled with shock. The Misty Cloud Sect's disciples who had beaten them until they were unable to retaliate earlier were turned into firecrackers that randomly blasted all over the place. After which, over half of them were eliminated. Only at this moment did they truly understand that in the eyes of a truly strong person, a human life was really mere dirt...

Ya Fei was similarly shocked by this frightening scene. Her enchanting pretty face was somewhat pale as she raised her head to look into the air. The black-robed, young man's indifferent face had a thread of ruthlessness to it. She sighed once again. The hatred Xiao Yan felt toward the Misty Cloud Sect had truly reached a stage where he anxiously wanted to eat their flesh. Ya Fei was quite familiar with Xiao Yan's character. Normally, he would not do something like this. Hence, the Misty Cloud Sect only had themselves to blame for all this.

"Ke ke, this fellow is no longer that softhearted young man from back then... however, this might be considered a good thing for him." Xiao Ding did not feel the slightest resistance to Xiao Yan starting a massacre. Instead, he felt a faint joy within his heart as he laughed and slowly spoke. His voice contained gratification and an unknown soft sigh.

Ya Fei nodded her head slightly. She was just about to speak when the sound of orderly horse hoofs suddenly sounded outside of the manor. She raised her eyes and was surprised to see a dark-black torrent suddenly swarming from all over the city. A moment later, they had completely surrounded those Misty Cloud Sect's disciples outside the manor, not allowing even water to flow past them.

"These people... are the army of the imperial family?" Ya Fei looked at those black armored soldiers on horseback with surprise. She felt somewhat stunned before raising her eyebrows and immediately laughing softly, "The tactics of Yao Ye are really not bad. They did not appear when the Primer clan suffered a calamity earlier. They ended up dispatching their army immediately now that Xiao Yan had returned and the situation had changed drastically. This speed at which they changed direction was really quite quick..."

Xiao Ding laughed faintly and said, "They are naturally trying to curry favor with third brother by maneuvering their military now. However, it is naturally best that she is trying to court us. There are quite a great amount of benefits for the Primer clan to have a good relationship with the imperial family. Moreover, everyone shares the same great enemy known as the Misty Cloud Sect.

Ya Fei nodded. Her gaze looked at the torrent of metal only to see that a pathway was split opened. A strong horse slowly sailed out. There was a lady wearing a purple-black gown and a phoenix crown seated on it. The lady was tall and her eyes contained a dignity as they flashed. From her appearance, she was naturally the future female emperor who would gradually control the Jia Ma Empire's imperial family, Yao Ye.

"The Misty Cloud Sect has ignored the laws and has assembled a mob to invade into the capital. Bring all of them away!" Yao Ye waved her delicate hand and roared. Her eyes were cold as she glanced at the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples who were surrounded.

Perhaps they had lost all their courage from having been massacred by Xiao Yan earlier or perhaps it was because of the threat of the many two to three meter long spears but these Misty Cloud Sect's disciples did not put up much resistance this time around. Instead, they placed their weapons down in a relaxed manner and allowed these gruff tiger-wolf-like soldiers to place a shackle that suppressed Dou Qi on their bodies.

Yao Ye also quietly sighed in relief when she saw that these Misty Cloud Sect's disciples did not resist. These people from the Misty Cloud Sect did have some ability. There might be some trouble if they were to resist.

Yao Ye settled the problem in this place before her gaze faintly swept across the manor. Her delicate hand under her sleeves immediately tightened when her gaze swept over the powder on the ground. She had saw some of those people suddenly auto-ignite earlier. Hence, her expression was currently somewhat uneasy. This kind of strength was really too great. Was a truly strong person so frightening? No wonder great-grandfather had always chosen to endure before he had absolute confidence to deal with Yun Shan.

Her gaze was raised and she looked at the black-robed, young man in the air. A somewhat moving smile was revealed on Yao Ye's pretty face. Her gentle soft voice was emitted from her red lips, "Ke ke, may I know if I should call you mister Yan Xiao or mister Xiao Yan?"

Xiao Yan glanced at this somewhat familiar looking woman. He knit his

brows and was unable to recall the latter's identity within a short amount of time.

"This is princess Yao Ye. You met her back then." Ya Fei's laughter was slowly transmitted to Xiao Yan while he was frowning, causing him to come to a sudden realization.

Yao Ye smiled at Ya Fei as the former saw her slowly walk out from the manor. She immediately jumped down from her horse and held the latter's hand affectionately. She said, "Ya Fei jie, I'm sorry. Originally I wanted to come as early as possible but the time needed to dispatch the army is also quite long."

Ya Fei did not display any surprise at Yao Ye's sudden warmth to her. She smiled. Her heart was well aware that it was likely that the imperial family was likely trying its best to form a good relationship with Xiao Yan at this moment. However, some of the matters back then had caused Xiao Yan to possess quite a poor impression for the other factions within the Jia Ma Empire. Hence, this intelligent woman in front of her had chosen to try and court her and use this opportunity to make contact with Xiao Yan.

"Oh it's princess Yao Ye..." Xiao Yan also carelessly smiled after being reminded by Ya Fei. However, he did not display much interest on the outside. He lifted his head and looked at the chaotic battleground in the sky before muttering with his mouth, "There is currently no time to catch up with princess. Let's slowly talk after I settle all these people."

This future female emperor of the Jia Ma Empire did not display any dissatisfaction toward these somewhat cold and indifferent words of Xiao Yan. She merely nodded with a gentle smile.

Xiao Yan randomly dismissed Yao Ye before the jade-green fire wings on his back were flapped. His body gradually rushed toward the chaotic battleground in the sky.

Due to being outnumbered, the few Misty Cloud Sect's expert Dou Wangs were already at a disadvantage in the fight within the sky. They could only parry the attacks and were unable to retaliate. Hence, the situation instantly became one-sided when a heavy weight, like Xiao Yan,

joined in.

“Grug!”

The blurry, black figure flashed across the sky for a mere few minutes when nearly four expert Dou Wangs became seriously injured and fell from the sky. The fresh blood that they spat out along the way was just like a red fog that slowly drifted in the air.

The entire city was completely silent as they looked at the repeatedly defeated expert Dou Wangs from the Misty Cloud Sect. Then they looked at each other. Anyone could tell that the Misty Cloud Sect did not have the slightest ability to turn the tide.

“Bang!”

Another ruthless fist smashed into the back of a shocked elite Dou Wang. The fierce powerful force caused him to instantly lose his fighting strength. In the end, that person fell head first from the sky with no one knowing whether he was dead or alive.

Xiao Yan slowly exhaled turbid air from his chest. His gaze slowly swept toward a distant blurry mountain top outside of the capital. A fierce aura suddenly surged from his body and immediately swept over the entire sky.

The instant that Xiao Yan’s aura erupted, Yun Shan, who was training with his eyes shut, as well as the white-robed lady in the ‘Forbidden Hall’ on the distant Misty Cloud Mountain, suddenly opened their eyes. Their eyes were filled with shock and disbelief...

“This aura... how is it possible?”

# Chapter 687: The Shock of the Misty Cloud Sect

“This aura...”

Yun Shan's eyes were filled with disbelief. He suddenly stood up and muttered with his mouth, “How can it be? This little fellow is actually still alive...” The muttering had just sounded when Yun Shan seemed to recall something. His expression suddenly changed. His body flashed and disappeared from this training room in a ghost-like manner.

The direction he had sensed the eruption of this aura earlier was clearly that of the capital. At this moment... there was a large unit that the Misty Cloud Sect had sent to the capital!

The grand hall of the Misty Cloud Sect was completely chaotic. Various noises mixed with panicked voices. Finally, they lingered within the hall, causing one's head to expand with giddiness.

Yun Shan also knit his brows because of this chaos when his body flashed into the grand hall. He cried out in a deep stern voice, “Quiet down. What a scandal to be in such confusion!”

The noise within the hall immediately began to quietly disappear when everyone saw Yun Shan who had suddenly appeared. It was finally completely quiet a moment later.

Yun Shan coldly snorted only after seeing that the grand hall had recovered its silence. He sat down in the leader's seat and asked, “What happened? Is there any news from Yun Du and the others?”

Upon hearing Yun Shan voice his question, an old man in the hall quickly walked over and spoke respectfully while wearing a somewhat pale expression, “Reporting to Sect Leader, the spiritual tablet of Yun Fu and three other Elders have suddenly burst apart a moment ago. The spiritual tablet of Yun Sha and the other few elders have also become extremely dim. From the looks of the situation, they have obviously suffered serious injuries!”

The faces of everyone within the grand hall including Yun Shan twitched intensely when the old man's words sounded. The experts whom they had dispatched to the capital were basically over half the strength of the current Misty Cloud Sect. Everyone present believed that there was not a single faction within the Jia Ma Empire, with the exception of the Misty Cloud Sect, who could block such a large lineup. However, the truth that was currently placed in front of them had ruthlessly thrown them a slap on their faces, causing them to be at a loss.

"Elder Yun Cha, have you made a mistake?" The silence continued within the grand hall for a moment before dry laughter finally sounded.

"I hope that's the case too..." The Elder who was addressed as Yun Cha laughed bitterly. He flipped his hand and a pile of broken jade tablets appeared on the table in front of him. The expressions of those people who originally had some doubts within their hearts became ugly when they saw these familiar jade tablets.

"How is this possible. That is two Dou Huangs and seven Dou Wangs. Which faction within this capital had the ability to eat up all of them? By just relying on that Primer clan?" An Elder who seemed to have quite a high status furiously spoke with a changing face.

"Don't tell me that the three large clans and the imperial family joined hands?" A person suddenly suggested, causing quite a number of people to quietly nod their heads. From the looks of it now, it seemed that this guess was the most reliable one.

"Since they actually dared to join hands and provoke us, the Misty Cloud Sect, I would like to impeach Sect Leader to give the order to completely eradicate the three large clans and the imperial family from the Jia Ma Empire!"

"That's right. Sect Leader, the Misty Cloud Sect will definitely not endure this kind of provocation! We must let them pay the price in blood!"

Yun Shan's face was gloomy as his gaze swept toward the group of agitated Elders and deacons. A moment later, his palm suddenly slammed violently on the table. The intense sound immediately shocked everyone

within the hall. Their eyes fearfully looked at Yun Shan and did not quite understand why the latter would be this furious.

“It is not whatever nonsense three large clan joining hands!” Yun Shan stood up and spoke in a dark, solemn voice. “That little bastard from the Xiao clan has returned.”

“Xiao clan?”

Everyone was startled when they heard this. They were all at a loss. The small Xiao clan was now lingering on its last breath. How could they have the ability to defeat that large lineup of the Misty Cloud Sect?

The fury in Yun Shan’s heart grew even more intense when he saw the lost expressions on everyone’s faces. However, just as he was unable to control himself and was about to burst out in anger, an exclamation finally sounded in the hall.

“Don’t tell me it’s that Xiao Yan?”

“Xiao Yan?” The name that was deep within their memories set off the memory that had been hidden in everyone’s mind for three years within a short instant. Three years ago, that young man who was not even twenty years old had ascended the Misty Cloud Mountain by himself. He had relied on his own strength to contend with the entire Misty Cloud Sect. Although he ended up being chased out of the Jia Ma Empire, that ferocious wolf-like young man left behind a deep memory that was difficult to remove within a countless number of people from the Misty Cloud Sect.

The lack of any news of him during these three years had caused everyone to gradually forget about that name and young man. However, by mentioning this name today, the scene from three years ago began to gradually surface in the minds of every single person...

“Isn’t that fellow dead?” The shock persisted for a moment before there was finally someone who muttered with some surprise.

“Who told you that he had died?” Yun Shan looked at everyone coldly. His voice was dark and chilly, “I sensed his aura earlier. It seems that that

fellow should be back. Yun Du and the others might have met with him.”

“Even if Elder Yun Du’s group was to meet with that fellow, but... but it is not possible for them to suffer such deaths and injuries right? That place has two Dou Huangs and seven Dou Wangs... they would not be so quickly defeated even if they were to meet three or four elite Dou Huangs! Don’t tell me that Xiao Yan has broken through to the Dou Zong class within these short three years?” An Elder involuntarily spoke doubtfully. He had yet to complete his sentence when he began to scoff at his own words.

“Although he might not have broken through to the Dou Zong class, from that aura of his earlier, it is likely that he has reached the Dou Huang class.” Yun Shan slowly spoke. His eyelids involuntarily twitched when he spoke until this point. Dou Huang... given his current strength, he was naturally aware that although Xiao Yan’s fighting strength back then was powerful, his true strength was at the very most that of a Da Dou Shi or a Dou Ling. However, only after a short three years, that fellow had actually reached the Dou Huang class? This speed... was indeed frightening!

A commotion immediately surged within the grand hall when Yun Shan’s voice sounded. Even that Elder from earlier revealed a dull face. Advancing to the Dou Huang class in three short years... this training talent could only be described as frightening. Looks like, allowing that brat to flee back then was indeed a most regretful matter.

In three years, he was able to reach the Dou Huang class. It was difficult to imagine what would happen if he was given another three years...

As he thought until this point, even someone as sophisticated as Yun Shan could not help but feel a coldness surging into his heart.

Yun Shan inhaled a deep breath of air. His eyes were lowered and a wave of killing intent that was difficult to keep in check suddenly swept out from his heart in all directions. He must not allow that person to remain alive. Otherwise, that person would eventually become a big trouble that he would have difficulty finishing off! In the future, the Misty Cloud Sect might really be completely destroyed by that person’s hands like what those fellows had said.

“Little bastard. Back then, you can be considered lucky to have fled. However, don’t blame the old me for being vicious since you have come looking for me this time around!”

“Sect Leader, what should we do now? Should we send someone to go and rescue Elder Yun Du and the others?” A person in the grand hall finally recalled Yun Du and the others who were on the brink of death.

Yun Shan mused for a moment after hearing this. He was just about to nod his head when the expression of Elder Yun Cha, who was managing the spiritual tablets of the many Elders in the sect, changed. His voice was hoarse as he spoke, “I think that it is not necessary. Their spiritual tablets... have all burst apart.”

The entire place was shocked when these words were spoken. Their heads immediately felt giddy. That was two Dou Huangs and seven Dou Wangs. This lineup had actually completely fallen within a short few hours. Such losses were something that the Misty Cloud Sect had difficulty enduring.

“That bastard. He’s too ruthless!” Furious curses repeatedly sounded within the hall. However, when they spoke these words, all of them had forgotten that they did not show any mercy when they had attacked the Xiao clan back then.

The gloominess on Yun Shan’s face was abnormally withdrawn in the face of such great losses. He waved his hand with an expressionless face and suppressed the commotion within the grand hall. His gaze flickered for a moment before he spoke in an indifferent voice, “There is no longer a need to send anyone to the capital. That little bastard will come looking for us himself. Since that is the case, we shall quietly wait...”

Everyone was startled when they heard these words from Yun Shan. Although there was an unwillingness in their hearts, they did not dare to object against Yun Shan’s decision. Hence, all they could do was respond respectfully.

“Tell everyone that the Misty Cloud Sect will enter a high alert state from now on. Kill anyone who privately ascends the mountain!”

“Yes sir!”

Everyone felt a chill all over their bodies when they heard the dark chilly killing intent in Yun Shan’s words as they hurriedly responded. Yun Shan immediately waved his hand and all of them swiftly swarmed out of the grand hall...

The hall was once again completely silent after everyone had left.

“Tsk tsk, how is it? I have just told you some time earlier that Xiao Yan had survived very well within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. Looks like the Misty Cloud Sect will be faced with quite the trouble with his return this time around...” The silence continued for a long time before a cluster of black fog suddenly and strangely appeared in the shadows of the grand hall. It immediately lingered in the large hall as an unusual laugh sounded from within it.

Yun Shan’s face twitched. A ferocity flashed across his eyes as he spoke in a dense manner, “He is but a little bastard. Even though he currently possesses the strength of a Dou Huang, this ancestor (refer to rank Dou Zong) can still kill him easily. Once I capture him, I will let him taste a feeling that is worse than death!”

“I am unconcerned about the grudge between the two of you. Coincidentally, he has returned. In that case, most of the members of the Xiao clan have been gathered. It also saves us the trouble of going to the ‘Black-Corner Region’ to search for him.” The black fog moved and a voice once again sounded, “According to our information, Xiao Yan has the spiritual body of Yao zun-zhe within his body. It is likely that he has borrowed the help of Yao Chen’s spirit in order to kill an expert Dou Wang with his Da Dou Shi’s strength. Leave Yao Chen for me to deal with the next time around. All you need to do is to capture Xiao Yan...”

TL: zun-zhe – respectful term for a Dou Zun

Yun Shan nodded slowly. A savage look surged onto his face as he spoke sinisterly, “Relax, I will cripple that little bastard’s Dou Qi before handing him to you...”

“Hopefully. However, I would like to remind you that it is best not to

underestimate your opponent. Otherwise, your ending at that time might be exceptionally miserable...”

The black fog moved slightly as that unusual laughter was once again emitted. Immediately, it strangely and slowly disappeared from within the grand hall, leaving behind the cold smile and savage face of Yun Shan...

# Chapter 688: Situation

The faint sound of rolling-thunder reverberated in the distant sky. A black figure suddenly surfaced and two human figures seemed to have suffered a serious blow. Their bodies trembled and their expressions instantly became white. A mouthful of bright-red fresh blood involuntarily spat out from their mouths. The two human figures were like birds with broken wings as they weakly fell from the sky in front of the countless number of shocked gazes in the city below.

“Bang!”

The two human figures carried a sharp wind as they fell into the city. Finally, they smashed into the hard road like cannonballs. Immediately, a wild and violent strength swept out like floodwater. The enormous deep pit made an enormous crack line swiftly spread from the spot where the figures landed. Finally, it formed an extremely conspicuous crack line leading to a deep pit in the middle of the city.

Dust drifted out from the deep pit before it was finally blown by the breeze and completely scattered. The two miserable human figures within it slowly appeared in front of the many gazes on the surrounding buildings.

Yun Du and Yun Sha lay in the deep pit like corpses. Their clothes were in tatters and their faces were pale-white. Bright-red blood traces spread from their chests. Their originally powerful auras were extremely frail at this moment. The heavy thunderbolt-like attack by Xiao Yan earlier had sent them into a seriously wounded condition where even death was imminent.

The two people in the deep pit tried their best to widen their eyes. Their eyes stared intently at the indifferent face of the black-robed, young man in the sky, who was carrying a heavy ruler on his back. Their mouths moved slightly, they seemed to intend to say something. However, the sweetness that surged out from their throats caused them to spit out fresh blood from their mouths, drowning out their words.

Fresh blood flowed down from the corner of their mouths. The spirit and life within the wide eyes of those two people swiftly elapsed. A moment later, both of their eyes gradually turned gray and their frail aura completely vanished...

Following the disappearance of the aura of these two people, these two elite Dou Huangs, who possessed quite a high position within the Misty Cloud Sect, had undoubtedly died in an extremely miserable fashion in front of the countless number of gazes within the city...

Numerous gazes were startled as they eyed the enormously deep pit that occupied an entire street. At this moment, almost everyone's thoughts had instantly become dull.

The ones who had died in front of them were not some Dou Ling or whatever Dou Wang. They were instead two genuine elite Dou Huangs. An expert of this level was basically an existence that most people looked up to. Countless numbers of people had worked hard, forgetting to eat and sleep as they trained to become such an existence. However, there were still very few people who could stand out among all these people and achieve this class.

In the senses of many people, an expert who was able to reach this stage was undoubtedly one who had the ability to summon the wind and rain. Today, however, these incomparable experts, who had the ability to summon the wind and rain in their eyes, were defeated in an extremely miserable manner by the hands of this young man who was only around twenty years old...

This somewhat cruel reality completely broke the thought that an elite Dou Huang was invisible in the hearts of many people. Only at this moment did some people understand that it was not impossible for an elite Dou Huang to be killed by another...

No matter what would happen in the future, the young man flapping his beautiful jade-green fire wings in the sky, called Xiao Yan, would forever be imprinted deep in the minds of everyone. This would be the case even when some would people gradually forget the names of the two elite Dou

Huang who was defeated today.

Moreover, from today on, this name, which had been silent within the Jia Ma Empire for three years, would once again erupt with a brightness that was even more dazzling and shining than ever. Moreover, this glow would be something that no one could block!

Jia Xingtian, who had his hands behind him on the tall tower in the imperial city, also let out a long breath the instant that Yun Du's and Yun Sha's auras disappeared. He narrowed his eyes and looked at the black-robed, young man suspended in the distant sky. It was a long while later before he softly and slowly said, "This little fellow is really no longer that sentimental young man of the past..."

Within less than an hour, there were at least four Dou Wangs and two Dou Huangs who were defeated by Xiao Yan's hands. These kinds of merciless, vicious tactics were something that caused even an old wily fox like Jia Xingtian to quietly inhale a breath of cold air. He gradually understood in his heart that the current Xiao Yan was likely someone who was more difficult to deal with compared to three years ago.

"The Misty Cloud Sect has destroyed the Xiao clan and Xiao Yan has killed many Elders and disciples of the Misty Cloud Sect. If one thinks in this way, there is not the slightest chance of them reconciling. Looks like the Jia Ma Empire will become even more chaotic in the future..."

Jia Xingtian knit his brows and immediately sighed. He did not expect that Xiao Yan would bring so many experts with him when he returned. From the looks of the large lineup that had appeared earlier, it was likely that it was not any weaker than the Misty Cloud Sect. Originally, the Jia Ma Empire was in a situation where there was one tiger and many wolves. That tiger was naturally the extremely powerful Misty Cloud Sect while the many wolves were the three large clans and some of the somewhat stronger factions. With Xiao Yan's return, there was an additional vengeful tiger with a ferocity that was not inferior to the Misty Cloud Sect in this area. As the saying goes, a mountain cannot accommodate two tigers. Moreover Xiao Yan and the Misty Cloud Sect already possessed an extremely deep blood feud. Hence, it was impossible for the two to coexist.

There would be one group among the two completely eliminated before the other would rest!

Regardless of which party was the one destroyed, this Jia Ma Empire would descend into bloody chaos that no one would be able to escape from!

“From the looks of it, I will need to make contact with the Nalan clan, Mu clan, and the Alchemist Association. Since Xiao Yan has already returned, it will not be long before the decisive battle with the Misty Cloud Sect. If one were to stand on the wrong side in this battle, it is likely that there will be trouble...” Jia Xingtian laughed bitterly and shook his head as he sighed. His gaze once again looked at the black-robed, young man in the distant sky. Only then did he turn around and slowly descend the tall tower...

The disappearance of the two Dou Huangs' auras of Yun Du and Yun Sha also stirred quite a big commotion in some other places. An expert of such a level was considered the top existence even when placed within the three large clans. Moreover, the Nalan clan and the Mu clan did not even possess a single elite Dou Huang. Hence, their inner hearts were extremely shocked and frightened when they saw two elite Dou Huangs fall to the hands of that black-robed, young man in the distant sky with their own eyes.

After they were shocked, they began to hesitate a little just like Jia Xingtian. With the current situation, Xiao Yan would definitely join together with the Primer clan. If he were to really defeat the Misty Cloud Sect, the benefits that the Primer clan would gain would likely enable it to completely shake off the other two clans. Hence, at this moment, they needed to begin thinking of the benefits and losses involved whether they were willing or forced to do so.

The current situation was really one where the wind would not stop blowing even if the tree wanted to be quiet. It is likely that the other large factions within the empire would have difficulty escaping from being involved in the fierce collision between Xiao Yan and the Misty Cloud Sect...

Hence, what they needed to consider now was which side they would stand with!

Xiao Yan, who was in the sky, was naturally unaware of just what kind of impact he had brought to those factions in the capital after killing all of the Elders from the Misty Cloud Sect. All that he knew now was that any person from the Misty Cloud Sect was someone whom he could kill. At the present, he was no longer the young man who had just come out to train. The fresh blood of quite a number of people had dyed his hand during these few years. Killing people no longer caused him to feel any uncertainty. Moreover, these people were people who did not have any right to be pitied in his eyes.

Xiao Yan's gaze slowly swept over the enormous city below. He immediately stopped for a moment in a couple of places. Those people in these places involuntarily felt their hearts pound when they discovered that his gaze was looking over. After which, they unnaturally shifted their gazes away.

The places that could cause Xiao Yan's gaze to pause were naturally the imperial palace, the Alchemist Association, the Mu clan, and the Nalan clan...

Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze and waved his hand at Lin Yan and the others a short distance away. He immediately turned his body and looked toward Hai Bodong who was focused on the two corpses in the deep pit below. He smiled and said, "Old Hai, I'm sorry. I could not resist snatching your opponents away a moment ago."

Hai Bodong smiled bitterly and shook his head when he heard this. There was, however, some lingering fear in his heart. Even he was only able to vaguely see a silver-colored glow flashing past when Xiao Yan attacked earlier. After which, he saw the both of them give over ten exchanges within a split second. A moment later, two elite Dou Huangs, leaping around in a lively manner earlier, fell with serious injuries. That speed caused even his heart to feel a chill. He understood that if he were Xiao Yan's opponent, it was likely that his endurance would not be any better than these two fellows.

“Old Hai, these three years... thank you very much.” Xiao Yan flapped his flame wings and stopped in front of Hai Bodong. He looked at the latter’s smiling old face before whispering.

“Ke ke, you little fellow. You have become a little maudlin after leaving for three years...” Old Hai shook his head, laughed, and scolded him.

Xiao Yan also smiled softly when he saw the smiling face of Old Hai. The ‘Serene Sea Storage Ring’ on his finger flickered and a transparent jade bottle flashed and appeared. There was a deep-purple-colored round medicinal pill within the jade bottle emitting an alluring luster.

Old Hai was startled when he saw this medicinal pill.

# Chapter 689: State of Affairs

“Old Hai, this is the reward that the little me had promised you back then.. It will enable you to recover your peak strength back then. Ke ke, however, please forgive me. Xiao Yan has owed you this medicinal pill for three years... three years can be long or short...”

The figure suspended in the sky suddenly stiffened. It was a long while later before an excited expression swiftly spread across Hai Bodong's face. His hands trembled as he received the jade bottle and inhaled a deep breath of air. There was some moisture contained in those old eyes as he spoke in a hoarse voice, “I have also waited three years for this day... to think that little fellow still remembered our agreement.”

When Yun Du and Yun Sha were defeated, this enormous attack to exterminate the Primer clan had slowly ended with a situation that no one had expected under the focus of the eyes of many in the capital.

In this fight, the Misty Cloud Sect, which had come charging forth in a menacing manner, had ended up suffering a wild blow. Not only were the nine experts completely defeated but over half of the ordinary disciples were killed or injured. Those who had remained alive were immediately locked up in the capital's prison. Hence, one could unceremoniously say that the Misty Cloud Sect had not only lost this attack but had lost quite miserably...

Only when the military from the capital began to clear up the streets, that had suffered quite a lot of damage, did those observers surrounding the Primer clan began to scatter with the remaining shock in their hearts and a feeling that they had not watched enough. One could imagine within a couple of days, the events that had happened in the capital would likely appeared to have grown wings as they swiftly spread to every single corner of the capital. Some of the neighboring empires might even receive this shocking news.

The originally somewhat hopeless faces of the members of the Primer clan had also unloaded the heavy stones in their hearts following the end

of this huge battle. Finally, they began to clear up the messy manor under the command of Ya Fei and some others.

Xiao Yan led Lin Yan and the others as they landed in the manor in front of the many respectful gazes below. Xiao Yan smiled at Xiao Ding who was seated on a wheelchair before immediately turned to his back and said, "Second brother, why are you not coming to see big brother?"

"Hee hee... hee hee..." Xiao Li smiled and stepped out from behind Xiao Yan after hearing this. The Dou Qi wings on his back slowly disappeared as he smiled and asked Xiao Ding, "Big brother, are you alright?"

Xiao Ding smiled slightly as he looked at Xiao Li's face which was even thinner, darker and colder than it had been two years ago. Only then did he softly reply, "It has been hard on you these few years... Fortunately, you have remembered my words and did not let any trouble happen to third brother. Otherwise, you should not come back and look for me."

Xiao Li rubbed his head at the slight reprimand within Xiao Ding's words. However, he did not show the slightest displeasure or resistance.

"Big brother, your leg?" Xiao Li's gaze also paused on the wheelchair that Xiao Ding was sitting on. His expression suddenly sank as he anxiously asked.

"I'm fine..." Xiao Ding randomly waved his hand. However, he spoke to Xiao Li with some surprise, "Instead, you little fellow. Why is it that you have reached the Dou Wang class after having not met you for only two years?"

Xiao Li was startled when he heard this. He immediately spoke hurriedly, "Hee hee, hee hee, this is of course all thanks to third brother. Otherwise, with my talent, even if I were to train with all my might, I would at the very most be only a Dou Ling now." Xiao Li's hand was behind him giving Xiao Yan a hand signal while he was speaking.

Xiao Yan was silent in his heart as he glanced at Xiao Li's hand signal. Second brother refusal to reveal the matters of him using his remaining life in exchange for strength was because he was afraid that big brother would worry. However, one might be able to keep such a thing a secret for

a short period of time but not forever. According to the 'Life Devouring Pill's' overdraft on his life, it was likely that second brother would at the very most have half a year left to live...

"Looks like I must think of a method to remove the trouble of second brother's 'Life Devouring Pill'..." Xiao Yan mused for a moment before he raised his head and shot his gaze toward Xiao Ding before smiling and nodding his head. After which, he lowered his body and pointed to Xiao Ding's thigh. He frowned and said, "Are you poisoned?"

"Yes, I was struck by a cold arrow covered with poison when I was fleeing back then. I have been delaying expelling the poison for these few years, which ended up causing me to lose the feeling of both my feet. However, I am used to it. At the very least, it allowed me to quietly think of things and train." Xiao Ding smiled. He did not appear too depressed over the crippling of both of his legs.

"There are still some methods to expel the poison if it is only poisoned. However, too much time has passed and we can only take things slowly." Xiao Yan smiled and sighed in relief within his heart.

"Ke ke, even if we want to catch up with each other, we don't need to do this at the front door, right. Go, let's go in and talk. Although the Primer clan is now in a complete mess, it should still be able to provide a clean place." Hai Bodong by the side opened his mouth and laughed when he saw the three people who were conversing happily from the side.

Everyone emitted kind laughter when they heard this. They immediately followed Hai Bodong and swarmed into the hall.

Everyone swarmed into the hall before separating and moving to their seats. Lin Yan, Lin Xiuya, Liu Qing, and the others randomly sat beside Xiao Yan while those experts from 'Xiao Gate' like Big Yao and the others hesitated for a moment before standing straight behind Xiao Yan like wooden pillars. Although these fellows belonged to the category of arrogant individuals that were difficult to tame, they felt respectful and fearful toward Xiao Yan. Their hearts truly viewed him as their leader.

Hai Bodong absorbed all of the actions of the group into his eyes. His

heart also vaguely guessed some things.

There were also quite a number of core members within the Primer clan within the hall. However, at this very moment, those people who had voiced some criticism of how Xiao Ding and the Xiao clan had brought quite a lot of trouble to them wore a respectful expression. Occasionally, they also gave a courteous smile when conversing with Xiao Ding. After the scene earlier, they already understood that from today on, the Xiao clan, which could only linger on its last breath under the protection of the Primer clan, would leap to become one of the strongest factions within the Jia Ma Empire. Even their Primer clan would not be able to catch up with them.

The smile on Xiao Ding's face was as indifferent as it was before in the face of the changes on the faces of these people. He did not reveal any surprise at this scene. He had long knew that as long as he could endure until the day that Xiao Yan returned to the Jia Ma Empire, the Xiao clan would definitely prosper once again!

Hai Bodong dismissed some of the female servants after settling in all the guest. Only then did he turned his head and voice his thoughts to Xiao Yan, "I'm afraid that you are planning to fight to the death with the Misty Cloud Sect after having returned, right?"

"Does Old Hai think that there is a possibility that the Xiao clan and the Misty Cloud Sect can coexist in the Jia Ma Empire?" Xiao Yan laughed faintly.

"Since this is the case, I should perhaps tell you about the Misty Cloud Sect's current strength..." Hai Bodong's expression gradually became solemn as he slowly spoke, "The Misty Cloud Sect's development during these three years has far exceeded your expectations. You should know that three years ago, the entire Misty Cloud Sect, with the exception of Yun Shan, only had Yun Yun as an elite Dou Huang. Now, however, even with Yun Du and Yun Sha being killed in your hands, it is likely that the Misty Cloud Sect still possess no less than three Dou Huangs in it. It should also have some expert Dou Wangs."

“They should have used some sort of method to forcefully raise their strength. Otherwise, it is impossible for them to have such progress.” Xiao Yan held his teacup and narrowed his eyes. A moment later, he softly said, “Moreover, the Dou Qi of Yun Di and Yun Sha earlier was quite superficial and weak despite them possessing the aura of an elite Dou Huang. Clearly, they had consumed some sort of medicinal pill or used some sort of Secret Technique... hence, the strength of the Misty Cloud Sect may be stronger than it was three years ago but it is not impossible to defeat them.”

Hai Bodong was also startled when he heard this. It seemed that even he had felt extremely surprised that Xiao Yan was actually able to clearly identify some of the shortcomings of the Misty Cloud Sect within such a short period of time.

“Ya Fei jie has built a large information network during these few years. With her help, I have discovered that there seems to be traces of some other mysterious faction within the Misty Cloud Sect. Perhaps, this should have some relation to the Misty Cloud Sect currently possessing so many experts.” Hai Bodong frowned and slowly spoke.

Xiao Yan gently lifted his eyebrows. That mysterious faction was definitely the ‘Hall of Souls’. Otherwise, with Yun Shan’s strength, he would not have the ability to allow the strength of the Misty Cloud Sect’s Elders to soar so greatly.

“Currently, the Misty Cloud Sect’s strength is spread over most of the Jia Ma Empire. It is likely that it will be difficult if you want to rely on your own strength. Hence, I advise you that it would be best to pull the remaining two large clans, the Alchemist Association, and the imperial family to your side. The actions of the Misty Cloud Sect these few years have caused them to be extremely dissatisfied. However, due to the strength of Yun Shan, most of them only dared to be angry and didn’t dare to give voice to it. Your return this time around is also a good thing to them. After all, there would be some chances of victory if you are included in a head on battle with Yun Shan.” Hai Bodong mused for a moment before speaking his thoughts.

“They actually also possess the courage of having other thoughts about the Misty Cloud Sect?” The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth was lifted into ridicule as he laughed.

“You are still bearing a grudge over those things that happened back then, but you cannot blame them. The Misty Cloud Sect is really too strong. They need to think about their clan members.” Hai Bodong shook his head and spoke helplessly.

“Although you have brought quite a number of experts back to the Jia Ma Empire this time around, I will say some unpleasant words. By just relying on their strength, it is still much weaker than the Misty Cloud Sect. Moreover, the Misty Cloud Sect also has the extremely frightening Yun Shan. That old man who won’t die is much stronger than he was three years ago. If it is just you alone...” Hai Bodong spoke in a solemn manner. Given his eyesight, he was naturally able to see the strength of Lin Yan and the others currently in the hall. Ten plus expert Dou Wangs. This was not considered an enormous lineup against the Misty Cloud Sect.

Xiao Yan merely smiled as he looked at Old Hai’s solemn expression. He softly said, “I naturally know that it is impossible to overturn the Misty Cloud Sect by just relying on moisturizer...” Xiao Yan suddenly clapped his hands after saying this. The clap resounded across the hall before it was transmitted out of it by a slight thread of Dou Qi.

Not long after Xiao Yan’s clapping sounded, the slight sound of rushing wind suddenly appeared. A moment later, three figures suddenly rushed over from outside of the building. Finally they landed in the hall. The ones who appeared were surprisingly Old Yin Gu, Su Mei, and Tie Wu, the three elite Dou Huangs.

# Chapter 690: Discuss

“Hee hee, chief Xiao, we did not stir anyone’s attention when we entered the city this time around.” That Old Yin Gu swept his gaze over the hall and smiled as he spoke to Xiao Yan when the three people appeared.

“I have troubled the three of you.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He turned his head to Hai Bodong and said, “Old Hai, now, the number of Dou Huangs in my hands is not any lesser than the Misty Cloud Sect. What is there to fear?”

Hai Bodong revealed a stunned face as he looked at the three people who had appeared in the hall. Shock gradually swarmed into his heart. He realized that the strength of these three people were all similar to him. That old man with a dark-shadowy face was even a little stronger than him.

“You... it is unexpected that you still hid something. How unexpected...” Hai Bodong finally recovered from his shock a moment later. He smacked his lips and praised.

Xiao Yan smiled. He held the teacup with his hand and softly said, “As for that Yun Shan... leave him to...”

The space in the hall suddenly wiggled before his sentence was completed. Immediately, a tall and a short figure strangely surfaced. That person with a tall figure was wearing a red dress. Her bewitching pretty face was filled with an unusual allure. However, it was cold and icy, causing one to be afraid of looking directly at it. Beside her was a little girl wearing white clothes. Her dark-black gem-like large eyes were rolling all around, curiously observing her surroundings.

The two people who had suddenly appeared caused Xiao Yan to be startled. His gaze immediately saw that the little girl’s small hands were holding an exquisite jade box. There was a faint medicinal fragrance that was being emitted from within it. The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth twitched immediately when he saw this scene. His face once again turned green. Clearly, these two people had gone out to steal medicinal

ingredients without notifying him again...

When Hai Bodong, who was seated in the leader's seat, saw Xiao Yan's gradually green face, terror and fear also surged up his own face. That manner was as though he had seen a ghost...

"Queen... Queen... Queen Medusa?"

Hai Bodong's body trembled slightly. A moment later, a voice that had a fear in its hoarseness was finally dryly spat out from Hai Bodong's throat.

"Grug!"

It was difficult to imagine just what degree of appallment Hai Bodong received when that familiar face once again appeared in front of him. It caused this elite Dou Huang who would not even feel such fear when faced with Yun Shan to quiver when he spoke. He did not expect that after three years, this frightening woman whom he was extremely afraid of was actually still following beside Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan did not discover the fear on Hai Bodong's face. He stood up with some fury and quickly walked to Medusa's side. He pulled Zi Yan over and swiftly confiscated the jade box. After which, he lowered his head and spoke in a deep voice to the Zi Yan's face which had an awkward smile, "You should avoid creating trouble with her in the future. Otherwise, I will immediately send you back!"

Zi Yan hurriedly shut her mouth when she heard Xiao Yan's threat. After which, she hurriedly grabbed the former's sleeve, indicating that she would definitely stand on Xiao Yan's side.

Medusa by the side was also somewhat helpless when she saw Zi Yan surrendering so quickly by the side. Her pair of bewitching eyes flashed aside for a moment under the focus of Xiao Yan's eyes which were filled with fury. A moment later, she seemed to explain, "This... just now, I saw that the fighting in this place was fiery hot. Therefore, Zi Yan and I went looking around and accidentally obtained a little something."

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He immediately rolled his eyes fiercely. This thing was actually stolen from the Primer clan?

Despite Xiao Yan feeling a fury in his stomach, he could only helplessly shake his head as he looked at Medusa's face which looked as though the situation was so bad that there would be no difference in making it worse. He turned his head toward Hai Bodong on the leader's seat and said, "I'm sorry, old Hai. These two troublemaker actually placed their attention on the Primer clan." Xiao Yan took out that jade box from his storage ring as he spoke. After which, he returned the box.

Queen Medusa's mouth moved a little by the side when she saw this, looking as though she was extremely unwilling to part with it. However, when she saw Xiao Yan ignoring her, she could only helplessly raise her head. A pair of bewitchingly beautiful, long, narrow eyes stared at Hai Bodong in the leader's seat, who was looking at her with a stunned expression. A dangerous glint flashed through her eyes.

Hai Bodong swiftly recovered after meeting Medusa's eyes. He sensed the somewhat ice-cold dangerous feeling and his body shivered. He hurriedly stood up and spoke to Xiao Yan, "There's no need to. There's no need to. We will give it to her since she likes it. In any case, these things are things that our Primer clan wants to auction. Treat it as doing a favor."

Xiao Yan could only give an embarrassed smile when he saw Hai Bodong doing his best to avoid taking it back. After which, he helplessly kept the jade box, turned around and viciously cut Medusa who had quietly sighed in relief before pulling Zi Yan back to his seat.

"Cough, someone, bring a chair!" Hai Bodong quickly instructed when he saw Medusa was standing in the hall. Xiao Yan might have dared to leave this frightening woman hanging there, but he did not have the courage to do so.

Medusa's icy-cold expression quietly became a little warmer at Hai Bodong's hospitality. Only then did she feel that this old man, whom she had sealed for many years, was a little pleasing to look at.

After settling the seating of Medusa, Old Yin Gu, and the others, Hai Bodong finally turned his gaze toward Xiao Yan and laughed bitterly, "You actually possess such a trump card. With her help, there is indeed no need

to fear Yun Shan.”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan shook his head and said, “It is very difficult to invite this big deity to move, Hence, you should not place too much hope on her. I will personally handle Yun Shan when we really fight with the Misty Cloud at that time. She... depending on her mood, she might be happy to watch by the side.”

Medusa elegantly sat on the chair. Her delicate hand held the teacup as she slowly sipped from it. She appeared to have not heard any of Xiao Yan’s words. Her nonchalant manner caused Hai Bodong to smile bitterly. Just what was the relationship between these two people? From the attitude that Xiao Yan had given her earlier, it seemed that the both of them should have quite a good relationship. Otherwise, who would dare speak to Queen Medusa in that manner given her character. That person would have long been hacked into a couple of pieces. The ferocity and ruthlessness of Medusa was something that Hai Bodong had tasted personally... moreover, the words that Xiao Yan had just spoke possessed a cold mocking feeling to them. This caused Hai Bodong to feel somewhat at a loss.

“You will deal with Yun Shan? Isn’t the risk a little too great?” A moment later, Hai Bodong, whose thoughts did not lead to any result, could only give up guessing the relationship between the two as he voiced his opinion. Although Xiao Yan’s strength had currently soared, the chances of him defeating Yun Shan was very low.

“Why don’t we do this. We will try our best to make contact with the remaining two large clans, the Alchemist Association, and the imperial family during these few days. If we are able to join hands with them, our chances of victory might increase greatly. After all, Fa Ma in the Alchemist Association and the old demon from the imperial family are all experts of the Dou Huang class. The latter has already advanced to the peak of the class for many years. Moreover, now that I have the ‘Purple Spirit Recovery Pill’ that you have refined for me, I should also be able to recover to my peak after a couple of days. At that time, we should have quite a great chance of success in defeating Yun Shan if the couple of us were to

join hands.” Hai Bodong suggested.

“Up to you...” Xiao Yan was noncommittal with regards to this suggestion. The old demon of the imperial family and Fa Ma did indeed have some strength. However, the fighting strength that the Nalan clan and the Mu clan could provide were basically negligible. An expert of the Dou Wang class no longer had much use in this kind of battle.

Hai Bodong helplessly shook his head when he saw Xiao Yan’s nonchalant manner. He suddenly asked, “What kind of situation do you wish to end up with when you head for the Misty Cloud Sect this time around?”

“I will not rest unless one of us dies. I want the Misty Cloud Sect to completely vanish from the Jia Ma Empire.” Xiao Yan raised his eyelids and spoke faintly.

“The Misty Cloud Sect’s strength currently covers half of the empire. If you wish to eliminate them from the root, you must remove all of them. By just relying on yourself, you might perhaps be able to kill all of the experts in the Misty Cloud Sect. However, it is very difficult for you to eliminate the remaining members. This is something that the strength of the imperial family will be able to do.” Hai Bodong tried to convince Xiao Yan to put aside his prejudice toward the other factions in the past.

Xiao Yan knit his brows slightly when he heard this. The point that Hai Bodong made was indeed true.

“Third brother, Old Hai is right. It is far from enough to truly eliminate the Misty Cloud Sect by just relying on just your people. These matters are things that are most appropriate for the imperial family.” Xiao Ding mused for a moment before he finally slowly opened his mouth to speak.

Xiao Yan thought for a moment after hearing Xiao Ding open his mouth and did not continue to resist. He waved his hand and said, “Since that is the case, I will trouble Old Hai to help me make contact with them. It is best to settle all of these issues before the fight with the Misty Cloud Sect starts. I have seen quite a bit of backstabbing these few years...”

“You little fellow...” Hai Bodong could only helplessly shake his head

when he heard Xiao Yan somewhat conspiratorial thoughts. However, it was fortunate that this fellow had agreed to discuss with the other factions. From the faint fear that these factions usually possessed for the Misty Cloud Sect, both parties would likely have a common ground to work together.

“There is still one other matter...”

“What is it?” Xiao Yan was startled as he asked.

“We might have to resolve with one person if we wish to eliminate the Misty Cloud Sect.” Hai Bodong spoke with a solemn expression.

“Who?” Xiao Yan frowned slightly as he spoke.

“Pill-King Gu He!”

Xiao Yan was also stunned when he heard this name. He slowly muttered it under his mouth once as he recalled that person, who was already a top alchemist renowned throughout Jia Ma Empire three years ago.

“You should also clearly know just what kind of summoning ability a tier 6 alchemist like Gu He possesses within the empire. If he were to help the Misty Cloud Sect, it is likely that he would at least be able to gather at least five of the ‘Ten Strong’ in the empire. Hence, you should first settle the problem of him before attacking the Misty Cloud Sect.” Hai Bodong spoke solemnly.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He had nearly forgotten about this important person. Gu He was also a tier 6 alchemist. Xiao Yan clearly know the abilities that an alchemist of this tier possessed. Back then, the experts that Han Feng had gathered from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ had gave even the Inner Academy a headache. Although Gu He’s refining ability might be inferior to Han Feng’s, but he was a true tier 6 alchemist no matter how one put it...

“However, how can we settle the issue of him is also a big problem. Gu He is not an ordinary person. Although his relationship with the Misty Cloud Sect is no longer as good as it was in the past during these couple of

years, he is ultimately a tribute Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect...” Hai Bodong spoke with a little headache.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes. He tapped his finger gently before suddenly speaking a moment later, “Can Old Hai make contact with Gu He?”

Hai Bodong was startled when he heard this. He mused for a moment before speaking slowly, “Gu He is also an Elder in name within the Alchemist Association. Perhaps we can ask Fa Ma to find him.”

“Since that is the case, let’s ask Fa Ma to come forward and look for Gu He. It is best that I can meet him. I will think of a way to get him to maintain his neutrality...” Xiao Yan nodded and replied.

# Chapter 691: Settling the Xiao Clan

“Alright, I will get Fa Ma to lend a hand...” Hai Bodong also sighed in relief when he saw that Xiao Yan had shouldered the responsibility of dealing with this manner. As long as they got rid of Gu He, they would be able to cause the Misty Cloud Sect to lose an enormous help.

“I will leave the matter of contacting the others to Old Hai. Additionally, please help me arrange for these people to have a good rest. They have not had a peaceful rest during this long journey from the ‘Black-Corner Region’.” Xiao Yan stood up and pointed at Lin Yan and the others as he smiled and spoke to Hai Bodong.

“Ke ke, this is something that we ought to do. Naturally, our Primer clan must receive such distinguished guests, that have arrived, properly.” Old Hai smiled and nodded.

Xiao Yan smiled, turned his gaze toward Xiao Ding and suddenly said, “I think that I should perhaps go and meet the clan members of the Xiao clan...”

“This is something that you ought to do. The First Elder instructed you to be the Clan Head just before he died. The clan members have waited two years for you to return...” Xiao Ding nodded his head slightly as he slowly spoke.

Xiao Yan was silent. He immediately nodded his head quietly. No matter what, the blood of his clan flowed in his bones. Hence, letting this clan prosper was a responsibility that he could not push aside. Perhaps this was also his father’s expectation...

Xiao Yan and Xiao Li pushed Xiao Ding as they quietly snuck out the Primer clan’s manor. After which, they turned down a street within the capital, followed the road, and slowly headed in a certain direction.

The great soul-stirring battle earlier was being heatedly discussed by the entire capital at this moment. Some of the people were so excited that they were dancing with flushed faces, bragging to the passersby about how they had watched the events from close proximity earlier. However, these

people who were attracted by the dazzling battle did not discover that the main character of the story was quietly walking passed them.

They pushed Xiao Ding and turned down a couple of different streets before the noisiness behind them gradually diminished. The number of luxurious houses around also diminished. Clearly, they were heading to a somewhat remote area of the city.

They once again turned into an uneven street and a somewhat old and damaged compound appeared in front of Xiao Yan's eyes. He could vaguely hear some of the children's laughter transmitted from the compound.

"It is here. In order to escape the search of the Misty Cloud Sect these years, we could only hide in such remote places despite the protection of the Primer clan." Xiao Ding smiled and said as he looked at the large compound.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly while Xiao Li quickly walked forward and pushed the door to the compound open.

Some children were playing all around within the shabby compound. Laughter was repeatedly being emitted. At this moment, there were over ten ordinarily dressed men within the compound. These men were carrying weapons on their backs. They shifted their gazes and were extremely cautious. The life of a refugee these few years caused the members of the Xiao clan to cease having a kind of rich and relaxed aura. Instead there was an additional sharpness.

The sudden opening of the compound's door also instantly attracted the attention of these men. Their faces immediately changed a little. Human figures flashed and grabbed the children running around and placed them behind. After which, they drew their shining weapons from their backs and aimed them at the exterior of the compound.

Ha ha, there is no need to be anxious..."

That familiar laugh caused all of them to relax just as everyone became anxious. After which, numerous gazes swept toward the three human figures at the entrance.

Xiao Yan pushed Xiao Ding and slowly entered this shabby compound. His gaze swept across the somewhat familiar faces. These people had some blood relationship with him...

“Everyone, look who has returned.” Xiao Ding looked at everyone and laughed.

All the clan members were stunned when they heard this. Their gazes immediately shifted to the black-robed, young man behind him. Everyone was startled when they saw that young face. It was some time later before a wave of wild joy suddenly erupted within the compound.

“It’s young master Xiao Yan!”

“It really is young master Xiao Yan. He is really back!”

“Ha ha, there is finally hope for the Xiao clan. Quick, go and get the third Elder and the others!”

Xiao Yan looked at the members of the Xiao clan who were actually somewhat at a loss because of the wild joy that had suddenly erupted. He exchanged gazes with Xiao Li by his side and a warm smile surfaced on their faces. After having been out roaming around and gaining experience for so many years, he had finally felt as though he had returned home upon reaching this place.

The door to the house within the compound was hurriedly opened while everyone was crying out in wild joy. An old man immediately walked out with anxious footsteps. After which, his gaze swiftly locked onto the black-robed, young man in the compound. He looked at that familiar face and the third Elder, whose irritable character had been smoothened through these years, could not control his tears from flowing out. They had finally endured until this day.

“Third Elder, you have suffered during these years...” Xiao Yan also sighed softly when he saw the third Elder’s tear stricken face. He took a step forward and whispered.

“It’s not hard, not hard. Young master must have suffered more than us after roaming outside for so many years.” Third Elder rubbed his tears and

replied.

The surrounding members of the Xiao clan also could not control their eyes. They turned red when they saw the emotional third Elder. Although the Xiao clan was not considered some renowned and great clan back then, they still possessed quite a great position within the Wu Tan City. Unfortunately, within a short few years, the clan had swiftly declined. They, who originally had enough to live comfortably, had fled all over the place, always worried that the tragedy that happened one night would occur once again.

“I will let the Misty Cloud Sect pay back many times more than what they owe our Xiao clan.” Xiao Yan gently patted the third Elder’s shoulders and spoke in a soft, deep voice. His voice contained some fury and killing intent that was difficult to hide. He had a responsibility that he could not shake off for the Xiao Yan to end up in this manner!

“Ke ke, little young master is really capable. The clan head really has an eye for people. He is much better than us three old men who won’t die. Back then... ke ke, the first and second Elder had told me to apologize for our foolish actions toward the little young master back then just before they died...” The third Elder laughed but his voice was somewhat hoarse.

Xiao Yan pressed his lips tightly together. Xiao Yan could not help but feel his nose become somewhat sour in this solemn and desolate atmosphere. If his father were to return and saw that the Xiao clan had turned into this shape, it was likely that his father would be extremely disappointed in him, right?

“Third Elder, you should not mention those matters back then in the future. All of us possess the same blood. In the future, our aim should be to take revenge and revitalize the Xiao clan.” Xiao Yan rubbed his nose and gently spoke.

“Ke ke, we won’t talk about it, we won’t talk about it. According to the instruction that the first and second Elders gave before they died, little young master is the current head of the Xiao clan. Any clan member will obey your orders. The old me can help enforce the clan rules for anyone

who refuses to accept them!” The third Elder’s gaze suddenly became stern when he spoke until this point. His voice was solemn.

“I think that big brother is more suitable for this position of clan head...” Xiao Yan hurriedly spoke when he heard this.

“Third brother, you should not decline any longer. These are the last words of the first and second Elders and they cannot be changed. Moreover, only you have the ability to lead the Xiao clan to be prosperous once more.” Xiao Ding shook his head and spoke with a smile.

“That’s right, third brother, you are the only one who can take the post of the Clan Head. Relax, big brother and I will help you.” Xiao Li also laughed.

Hearing the encouragement of these two and seeing the numerous earnest gazes from the surrounding clan members, Xiao Yan could only stop his pointless evasion and say, “In that case, I will take care of this position of the Clan Head of the Xiao clan for now. We will discuss about who is the most suitable in the future.”

The surrounding clan members immediately emitted waves of cheers when they saw Xiao Yan nod his head in agreement. They possessed an unknown confidence toward Xiao Yan. Moreover, with what they had noticed in the great battle in the sky earlier, they did not have the slightest doubt in the former’s strength. They believed that under Xiao Yan’s leadership, the Xiao clan would definitely become more powerful than it was in the past.

Xiao Yan pressed his hand on the illusionary air and suppressed the cheer. His eyes looked all around him as he asked, “How many clan members are currently left in the Xiao clan? What is their strength like?”

“There are still two hundred and eight people. If we remove the women and children, who don’t have any fighting abilities, we still have around one hundred and forty people. Most of them are of the Dou Zhe or Dou Shi class. Even I am only a four star Dou Ling...” The third Elder said.

Xiao Yan gently sighed when he heard this. In the past, the Xiao clan did not possess powerful Qi Methods and Dou Techniques, nor did they have

the help of any good medicinal pills. It was natural that their training was quite slow. This kind of strength was indeed not worth mentioning in front of the Misty Cloud Sect.

“This place doesn’t seem to have over two hundred people?” Xiao Yan looked around him and wondered out loud.

“We have secretly established a mercenary group that is used to earn some extra income and to help train the clan members. Hence, most of them are usually scattered about completing their tasks.” The third Elder hurriedly replied.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He turned his head to Xiao Li and said, “Second brother, I will leave the training of the clan members to you. You can bring up any request to me. Moreover, change the living quarters to a better place. The Xiao clan will no longer need to hide and linger about to survive in the future...”

“Yes, no problem. However, my training methods are not something that an ordinary person can endure. I wonder if anyone is afraid?” Xiao Li nodded his head and immediately swept his gaze over the clan members as he spoke in a solemn manner.

“Young master Xiao Li, my son died by the hands of the Misty Cloud Sect. You tell me, what am I afraid of in order to gain strength? You can just train us to death. Those who die because they cannot endure it deserve it!” Quite a number of those men with excited faces within the Xiao clan roared out in excitement once Xiao Li’s words sounded.

Xiao Li nodded slightly. He felt quite satisfied with the guts of the members of the Xiao clan. One could train if one did not have strength. If one did not even have guts, one would just be a weakling no matter how one trained. Currently, the Xiao clan needed people who dared to stake their lives to fight and not some weaklings!

“Second brother, you should also dispatch some members of ‘Xiao Gate’ into the city. Currently, the Xiao clan does indeed need some protection.” Xiao Yan mused for a moment before speaking to Xiao Li.

“Aye, leave the matter of the Xiao clan to your big brother and I. What

you need to do now is prepare to deal with the Misty Cloud Sect. This is the most important thing that we need to do. If we can defeat the Misty Cloud Sect, the reputation of the Xiao clan will surely soar. If we were to be defeated, we will really be beyond redemption.” Xiao Li nodded, patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders and spoke in a deep voice.

# Chapter 692: Females Picking On Each Other

Xiao Yan smiled and said, "Relax, leave the Misty Cloud Sect to me. I will make them pay the blood debt that they owe our Xiao clan many times over. Of course, there is also the disappearance of father... I will get them to pay the price for all of these, a price that is worse than death."

"You are currently the pillar supporting the entire Xiao clan. As long as you remain standing, the Xiao clan will stand proudly. Hence, you must be extremely careful when you act!" Xiao Li softly said.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He placed Xiao Ding's reminder in his heart before lifting his eyes and slowly sweeping them around him. The clan members were currently no longer as cautious and anxious as they were earlier. A kind of unusual expectation and confidence filled their faces. The origin of this confidence came from him!

At this moment, Xiao Yan once again sensed that the heavy burden on his shoulder was really heavy...

"Father, rest assured that I will let the Xiao clan once again return to the peak in my hands! Definitely, definitely..."

The Misty Cloud Sect's attack on the Primer clan ultimately ended up with them suffering severe losses. Just as everyone thought that the strongest faction within the Jia Ma Empire would erupt into a thunderbolt-like anger, the former had unexpectedly descended into an unusual silence. This kind of strange action caused many people to be at a complete loss.

Xiao Yan and the others might also feel surprise at this unusual silence of the Misty Cloud Sect but they did not think too deeply into it. Since the other party wanted to give them time to make contact with the other factions, they would do as the other party wished.

Hai Bodong had also displayed an extraordinary effectiveness during this period of time. Within a short day, he had already made contact with the

remaining few large factions of the capital. With the return of the strong Xiao Yan and his display of shocking strength in front of many people that day, there was naturally not a single faction who dared to easily slight Hai Bodong's current suggestion. Hence, the contacting work was extremely easily.

The meeting place where they would discuss matters was located at the Alchemist Association, which had been maintaining a neutral position within the Jia Ma Empire.

Being the place that had gathered over half of the alchemist within the empire, the gathering ability that the Alchemist Association possessed within the Jia Ma Empire was naturally far from ordinary. Although chairman Fa Ma's medicinal refining abilities were a little inferior to Pill-King Gu He, he was far beyond what the latter could compare with in terms of seniority. Hence, even Gu He had to be a little courteous in front of Fa Ma. Due to this, locating the meeting place in the Alchemist Association was not the least bit inappropriate.

Xiao Yan coincidentally met Hai Bodong and Ya Fei who were about to leave when he arrived at the Primer clan early in the morning.

"Hee hee, you little fellow..." Hai Bodong laughed out loud when he saw Xiao Yan. He was just about to greet the latter when he saw the beautiful face that contained a bewitching feeling behind Xiao Yan. His face twitched a little as he coughed dryly and said, "I was just about to send someone to look for you. I have already made contact with the imperial family, the Mu clan, and the Nalan clan to meet at the Alchemist Association today to discuss some collaboration issues."

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He patted Zi Yan's head which was looking all around the place from his side. Since he was worried that this little girl would be abducted by Medusa to go and steal other people's medicinal ingredients, he could only bring her by his side. However, he was somewhat speechless in the face of Medusa following him. It seemed that this woman possessed a great interest for Zi Yan.

"Xiao Yan, this is?" Ya Fei, whose pretty face contained a gentle smile

was also startled when she saw Medusa following close behind Xiao Yan. She immediately smiled and asked without revealing anything.

“A friend. You can call her Cai Lin.” Xiao Yan appeared to have sensed that something was not quite right under the focus of Ya Fei’s watery peach blossom eyes. Hence, he could only answer vaguely.

“Ke ke, so it’s Miss Cai Lin.” Ya Fei raised her eyebrows upon hearing this. She took two steps forward, observing Medusa’s exquisite, flawless face that caused even her to feel like exclaiming out loud. She smiled and said, “Miss Cai Lin is indeed beautiful. No wonder you are following beside Xiao Yan di-di.”

TL: di-di – younger brother

To the side, Xiao Yan was immediately startled when he heard Ya Fei’s words. These words were spoken as though he coveted other people’s beauty. Why was it that this Ya Fei jie was a little different today compared with yesterday? Was she jealous? Xiao Yan quietly pondered in his heart.

TL: jie – older sister

As a man, it was perhaps difficult for Xiao Yan to sense some of the thoughts of a woman. However, Medusa managed to sense the slight enmity and caution in the tone of the woman in front of her, who similarly possessed an extremely extraordinary appearance and demeanor. Her long eyelashes blinked slightly and her lazy eyes swept over Xiao Yan and Ya Fei. She could vaguely sense that this beautiful lady in front of her had some special feelings toward Xiao Yan.

For some unknown reason, Medusa involuntarily knit her eyebrows when she thought of this. An unknown emotion rose in her heart. This kind of emotion caused her to feel somewhat frustrated. Hence, her pretty face turned to Xiao Yan and her tone turned a lot colder, “Why are we dragging on the conversation here instead of doing serious things?”

Xiao Yan was also startled when he saw that Medusa’s expression had suddenly turned cold. His gaze immediately swept over both Ya Fei’s face and then her face. His heart felt puzzled. Why was it that both women

were not quite normal today?

“Cough...\*cough\*...\*cough\*...\*cough\*...\*cough\*” Hai Bodong by the side was an extremely experienced person in his old age. He managed to see the somewhat unfriendly atmosphere between Ya Fei and Medusa at a glance and immediately let out a dry cough as he hurriedly pulled Ya Fei behind him. Should this ferocious, beautiful female snake suddenly attack, Ya Fei would likely be unable to even endure a single blow given her strength.

“Ya Fei, all of the auction houses of the clan will once again open today. These matters are also troublesome. You should hurry over to direct and settle them. Xiao Yan’s group and I still need to hurry to the Alchemist Association...”

Although Ya Fei was somewhat unwilling, she could only nod her head when she heard Hai Bodong’s orders. However, just before she left, she slowly walked in front of Xiao Yan and extended her jade-like snow-white delicate hands to gently help him flatten his somewhat messy robe. She gently said, “Little fellow, don’t be impulsive in this meeting. Every person whom you can rope in is one extra person for you to use. It will also be good if they end up becoming a sacrifice. Now, you not only carry the fate of the Xiao clan... but you also owe me a promise. You better not shamelessly forget about it.”

Xiao Yan sniffed the faint fragrance that was transmitted from in front of him and felt the gentle feeling that was brought over when Ya Fei’s delicate snow-white hand brushed against him. His heart moved a little as he revealed his bright white teeth and said with a smile, “Of course I will not forget about it. Just before I left back then, I had said that I will try my best to help you even if Ya Fei jie wants to become a queen in the future.”

Ya Fei smiled as she covered her mouth and laughed lovingly, “I am not interested in being a queen...”

Hai Bodong let out a dry laugh as he saw the two of them flirting with each other. He could sense that the face of Medusa behind Xiao Yan was becoming increasingly colder.

“Alright, I shall take my leave first. All of you should hurry to the Alchemist Association. My information network has been observing the Misty Cloud Sect recently. I will inform you if there is any news.” Ya Fei patted Xiao Yan’s head gently and ceased lingering. When she turned her body, her gaze vaguely glanced at Medusa. Her sleek, red lips were raised a little, feeling a little joy.

Xiao Yan watched her alluring figure sway as it slowly disappeared from his sight. Only then did he turn to Medusa, smile, and say, “Let’s go.”

“If you have not seen enough, you can follow her and continue watching...” Medusa glanced at Xiao Yan as she laughed coldly. She immediately turned around and headed out of the manor.

“This woman... why is she behaving so strangely today?” Xiao Yan shook his head when he saw Medusa’s back and spoke in a somewhat stunned manner.

“She’s jealous. All women are like that...” Hai Bodong by the side laughed and immediately raised his thumb toward Xiao Yan. “Little fellow, you are really good. You actually managed to tame this beautiful female snake whose name frightened the entire Jia Ma Empire back then. One word! Impressive! Two words, Very strong! Three words, Very very strong.”

TL: The one word, two word, three word thing sounds horrible because of translation

What a cold joke...

“Jealous?” Xiao Yan suddenly laughed out loud when he heard this. He immediately shook his head. He did not think that Medusa could possess such an emotion. Moreover, tame... forget about it. Who knew if she would immediately turn hostile after the one year agreement and kill him. It was better to avoid messing around with this kind of woman.

“Ke ke, this little girl... seems to be a little different? In what way is she different? Why do I feel...” Hai Bodong suddenly paused his gaze on the white-clothed little girl who was holding Xiao Yan’s hand and spoke in surprise. He discovered that despite his strength, this little girl actually gave him a feeling of being difficult to see through. This kind of feeling

caused him to be in an extremely bad mood!

“Old man, don’t randomly look. Otherwise, I will ask Cai Lin jie-jie to beat you up! Perverted old man, go and die!” Zi Yan was somewhat displeased when Hai Bodong gaze swept over her. She curled her small mouth and spoke in a bratty manner.

Xiao Yan smiled and patted Zi Yan’s head. He smiled and spoke to Hai Bodong, “You should not underestimate Zi Yan. There should hardly be anyone in the Dou Wang class who is a match for her. Even some Dou Huangs would not feel good after coming into contact with her punch...”

Surprise flashed across Hai Bodong’s eyes when he heard these words. This little girl actually possessed such a frightening strength?

Xiao Yan merely smiled in the face of the surprise on Hai Bodong’s face. He did not describe Zi Yan’s origin in detail, clearly understanding that Zi Yan’s potential was extremely extraordinary. Once he managed to refine a ‘Body Transformation Pill’ in the future, it was likely that her strength would not lose to Medusa... moreover, the frightening unusual strength of hers was something that even Xiao Yan was afraid of.

It could be predicted that in the future, Zi Yan would be a great help of Xiao Yan. Albeit this day was going to be a little far away....

“Let’s go to the Alchemist Association...” Xiao Yan stretched his lazy waist, and did not continue to be entangled on this topic. His gaze turned toward the spot where the Alchemist Association was located and laughed faintly, “Let’s go and see those old familiar faces. I wonder if after three years, I will have the feeling of the people being different despite the surroundings being the same.”

“A small Da Dou Shi back then had already become an ultimate existence who could easily kill elite Dou Huangs. Isn’t this the feeling of people being different despite the surroundings being the same? For example, that old fellow Jia Xing Tian, he is still lingering at the peak of the Dou Huang class after three years. Yet you... have already completely transformed.” Hai Bodong laughed.

“Hence, when you meet them this time around, the expressions of these

people will definitely be more interesting compared to three years ago.”

Xiao Yan smiled slightly when he heard the gloating tone in Hai Bodong’s voice. He pulled Zi Yan, turned around and walked out of the Primer clan. After which, he slowly walked in the direction of the Alchemist Association.

“The imperial family, the Alchemist Association, the Mu clan... and the Nalan clan. We have really parted for a long time. I wonder if all of you still remembered the name Xiao Yan during these three years?” Xiao Yan passed through the numerous streets before his group appeared in front of the Alchemist Association’s entrance half an hour later. He looked at the familiar door of the Alchemist Association and slowly sighed while muttering within his heart.

# Chapter 693: Xue Mei

Xiao Yan slowly walked into the Alchemist Association which occupied an enormous swath of land with Hai Bodong. The noisiness behind him was gradually cast aside and a faint medicinal fragrance spread out from the place, causing one to feel relaxed and happy.

The current Alchemist Association was much more powerful and prosperous in terms of ability and numbers compared to three years ago following alchemists repeatedly joining them during these three years. At the very least, there had seldom been such large human traffic within the association back then.

Hai Bodong needed to perform some preparations after entering the association. Hence, he merely told Xiao Yan the location of the meeting before leaving by himself.

Xiao Yan still possessed some feelings toward this Alchemist Association he had parted with three years ago. Back then, he had experienced a great medicinal refining competition that was extremely tough for him. However, he was at most considered a tier 3 alchemist who could refine a tier 4 medicinal pill when he participated in the competition back then. However, now he was a tier 6 alchemist who could be compared to Pill-King Gu He! This improvement was not a small one...

Xiao Yan's gaze looked in all directions before pulling Zi Yan, whose face was also filled with curiosity, as they slowly walked to the transaction area. If one had good perception and was lucky, one might be able to find quite a good thing in such a place. The 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' of Xiao Yan was something that he had luckily obtained from this place.

Xiao Yan walked into the transaction area with Zi Yan. The vendors seemed endless and the black mass of human heads caused Xiao Yan to let out an exclamation. Following the growth of the Alchemist Association during these three years, the size of the transaction area had greatly expanded.

Xiao Yan's sweeping gaze suddenly paused just after he entered the

transaction area. He was somewhat stunned to see a figure that was as white as snow not far away.

The figure was wearing a white dress while her long hair was emitting an icy-cool that was just like snowflakes. This somewhat familiar figure caused Xiao Yan to recall the disciple of Frank whom he had met in the Black Rock City when he was training in the Jia Ma Empire three years ago, Xue Mei.

Xiao Yan gained quite the positive feeling for Fu Lan Ke back then. That old man had helped him out quite a bit. Although this was because the latter wanted to persuade Xiao Yan to participate in the Alchemist Grand Meeting, he did not have any ill intentions. This girl who had an ice-cold snow-like character also gave Xiao Yan quite a good impression.

“I wonder how have they been these three years?” This thought flashed across Xiao Yan’s heart, but he did not take the initiative to go over and strike up a conversation. After looking at her from a distance, he withdrew his gaze from that snow-white figure. He pulled Zi Yan along as he slowly walked through this transaction area with a fierce human flow.

Not long after Xiao Yan had joined the human flow, Xue Mei who had bent her body to study a medicinal ingredient turned her head around. She seemed to have sensed something. The exquisite, ethereal snowy-mountain-like face carried some uncertainty, causing the surrounding human traffic that was coming and going to involuntarily slow their footsteps. Their gazes looked at her somewhat greedily.

Xue Mei knit her eyebrows slightly in the face of the surrounding gazes. She immediately slowly entered the human crowd before disappearing.

Xiao Yan pulled Zi Yan and walked along the small path filled with vendors. His gaze repeatedly swept across those vendors. Perhaps it was because his horizons had widened but he was unable to find a single thing that could interest him after spending ten plus minutes.

“All of them are broken lousey goods...” Zi Yan smacked her mouth and muttered. The Yaowan which she usually ate were all refined from considerably rare medicinal ingredients in the eyes of an ordinary person.

An ordinary medicinal ingredient was no different to garbage in her eyes even if it was somewhat uncommon in this market.

Xiao Yan was also helpless in the face of this. It seemed that wanting to find a treasure like the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' in this place really did need to rely on luck.

Since there was no gains, Xiao Yan finally gave up that kind of hope after roaming a little longer. He helplessly shook his head toward Zi Yan. Just as he was about to leave, a commotion occurred not far in front of him. Occasionally, there was even loud enigmatic laughter.

Xiao Yan was usually uninterested in being an observer to such things. Hence, he merely raised his eyes before turning his body and prepared to leave. However, just as he turned his body, a clear furious voice was transmitted from the crowd, one that caused him to pause.

Xiao Yan's gaze passed through the gaps in the crowd and faintly saw a snow-white figure. He waved his hand toward Zi Yan and said, "Looks like I can't just walk away like this..."

Once he said this, he pulled Zi Yan's hand and quickly walked toward the area where the commotion was located. A moment later, he squeezed into the crowd and swept his gaze over the disturbance within.

At this moment, Xue Mei was quietly standing in the middle of the crowd. However, that normally somewhat overly white, exquisite face of hers was filled with anger. There were a couple of men in alchemist robes standing a short distance in front of her laughing as they looked at her pretty furious flushed red face. They repeatedly emitted bursts of laughter.

"Aoba, don't go too overboard! Don't think that you can be this arrogant just because your teacher is an Elder of the association!" Xue Mei's delicate finger pointed at the man who was the leader and furiously roared out.

"Hee hee, Xue Mei, the one with the highest bid gets the goods in this transaction area. Since I am able to offer a higher price than you, it is only natural that this thing is mine. Even if you were to refer this matter to the association head, he would not be able to do anything to me." That man

who was wearing a tier 2 alchemist badge on his chest merely laughed in the face of Xue Mei's rebuke. After saying this, he turned his head to the vendor owner and shouted, "I will offer fifty thousand gold coins for this 'Icy Fire Snake Scale Fruit'. Are you selling it?"

That vendor owner was startled when he heard Aoba's cry. He immediately rejoiced in his heart. Although this 'Ice Fire Snake Scale Fruit' was somewhat rare, it was at the very most worth twenty thousand gold coins. It was unexpected that this prodigal person was actually willing to purchase it at double the price. Naturally, there was no reason for him not to agree.

Xue Mei's pretty face was green as she looked at Aoba who was tossing the 'Ice Fire Snake Scale Fruit' in his hand with a proud look. She clenched her silver teeth but was completely helplessly. She had recently undertook a retreat for a period of time and had just left the retreat today. Coincidentally, she saw this medicinal ingredient that she needed to refine a medicinal pill. She had just agreed on the price with the owner of the stall when this hateful person appeared like a ghost.

This Aoba had once tried to woo Mei Xue because of her beautiful appearance. However, the latter was currently a tier 3 alchemist. Hence, his attempt at wooing her naturally ended in failure. However, a failure might be a failure but this stalker finally became extremely displeased after being publically rejected by Xue Mei a couple of times. He repeatedly changed his tactics to find trouble with Xue Mei, causing her to be very irritated. Moreover, his teacher had quite a good refining ability and had long since been promoted to an Elder position despite having just joined the association recently. His position within the association was quite high and he formed cliques using that status. Other than the association head and his deputy, the one with the highest authority within the association was Aoba's teacher. Hence, Mei Xue did not dare to attack and hurt this fellow despite feeling extremely annoyed.

However, Xue Mei had clearly underestimated the abomination of this sticky candy. Her tolerance had caused Aoba to take any advantage he could get. He would come and look for trouble at every opportunity. The

situation today was not the first time this had happened.

Xue Mei inhaled a deep breath of air. She looked at the increasingly hateful and arrogant face of Aoba before clenching her teeth. Given this situation, she could only give up on this 'Ice Fire Snake Scale Fruit'.

Xue Mei's eyes were ice-cold as she stared at Aoba before turning around to leave. A laugh suddenly sounded within the crowd just as she was turning around, "One hundred thousand gold coins to purchase this 'Ice Fire Snake Scale Fruit'."

Everyone was startled when this laughter sounded. They immediately turned their gazes and saw a black-robed, young man who was pulling a little, purple-haired girl beside him. Some people involuntarily threw him a pitiful look. Was this fellow new? He actually dared to embarrass Aoba?

This laughter also caused Xue Mei to turn her head around to look at the black-robed, young man. That somewhat familiar face caused her to be startled. A moment later, she finally recalled this young man who had left a deep impression on her.

"You... haven't you been..." Xue Mei was stunned as she looked at the black-robed, young man. She gasped but the words that had reached her mouth were hurriedly swallowed upon seeing the surrounding audience.

Xiao Yan smiled and walked out from the crowd. He observed Xue Mei for a moment before laughing, "Is grandmaster Frank well?"

"Teacher is fine..." Xue Mei nodded. She immediately pulled Xiao Yan's robe and softly said, "Didn't you leave the Jia Ma Empire? Leave quickly, don't offend these people..." Since Xue Mei was in a retreat, she was completely ignorant of the matter during these past two days that had become the greatest news of the Jia Ma Empire. She merely knew that Xiao Yan was a target of the Misty Cloud Sect and would definitely be in deep trouble should he be discovered by the Misty Cloud Sect.

"Oh, yo, why? Do you want to act like a hero rescuing a damsel in distress?" Aoba's face gradually became dark after Xiao Yan spoke his first word. He let out a strange laugh and immediately tightened his grip on the 'Ice Fire Snake Scale Fruit' as he coldly laughed, "This young master has

already bought this thing. You should just roll off to one corner. I advise you not to meddle in another person's business. Otherwise, you might be able to enter the capital, but you won't be able to leave it..."

# Chapter 694: Fu Yan

Xiao Yan smiled faintly when he saw that bossy face. He was too lazy to say any nonsense as he raised his palm aimed it at Aoba from a distance. A suction force suddenly surged out and forcefully sucked the 'Ice Fire Snake Scale Fruit' from the other person's hand.

"Bastard, you are seeking death!"

Aoba was immediately embarrassed when he saw Xiao Yan's sudden actions. With a furious cry, he waved his hand and the ten plus men beside him pounced toward Xiao Yan like hungry tigers.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Xiao Yan looked indifferently at the dozen men pouncing over. He randomly waved his hand and a wind surged out explosively before immediately smashing violently into the chest of the dozen plus men. The powerful force smashed at them until they flew backward before finally smashing away from the crowd, bringing about screams and chaos.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Another wave sounded!

Aoba was also stunned when he saw his ten plus subordinates falling in the blink of an eye. He was just about to let out a curse when a human figure flashed in front of them. A black robe strangely surfaced in front of his eyes as a long arm gently covered his chest. After which, a faint voice slowly sounded beside his ear, causing his entire body to be covered with cold sweat.

"Although there is an increasing number of people in the current Alchemist Association, there are also many more dregs. Today, I shall help Fa Ma clean up a little..."

A powerful force suddenly erupted from the palm that was pressed on Aoba's chest after the voice sounded.

"Grug! Grug! Grug!"

Aoba was heavily struck and sent flying amid numerous stunned gazes

in the transaction area. A mouthful of fresh blood involuntarily spat out, plastering against the ground for over ten meters before gradually coming to a stop.

Surprise flashed across the hearts of those around when they saw that Xiao Yan could defeat Aoba with a random palm. Although this Aoba had a poor character, he was an expert who was about to advance to the Da Dou Shi class no matter how one put it. It was really unexpected that he was unable to even endure one exchange in the hands of this black-robed, young man.

However, everyone threw numerous pitiful gazes toward Xiao Yan after they became surprise. This fellow might have enjoyed giving that punch but did he not know that the old fellow Fu Yan always protected his own? Other than a small number of people in this Alchemist Association whom he did not dare offend, most of the people felt a little afraid of that eccentric old man who protected his own.

“You... ugh, you have gotten into trouble. Quick, follow me and leave this place!” Xue Mei was also shocked at Xiao Yan’s sudden attack. She looked at Aoba who was lying on the ground in the distance repeatedly emitting a groan. She hurriedly urged Xiao Yan softly before she pulled the latter, turned around, and left.

Xiao Yan did not resist Xue Mei pulling him. He glanced at the moaning Aoba not far away before pulling Zi Yan and following Xue Mei as they left this noisy place.

The three of them squeezed all the way out of the transaction area but Xue Mei still did not stop. She pulled Xiao Yan and ran to the exit of the Alchemist Association. Seeing this, Xiao Yan could only helplessly remove his hand and speak with a smile toward her, “He is but a useless second generation. Do we need to act like this?”

“That fellow may indeed be a useless person but his teacher is an Elder in the association with quite the authority. His reputation is extremely great in this capital, and he tends to go to great lengths to protect his own. If we were to wait for that fellow to go and complain, that old fellow will

definitely not let you off.” Xue Mei could only hurriedly speak in the face of Xiao Yan who was afraid of nothing.

“Frank seemed to be also an association Elder right? Why are you still afraid of him?” Xiao Yan knit his brows and asked her a question.

“Teacher is merely a tier 4 alchemist now while that Fu Yan is a genuine tier 5 alchemist. His medicine refining level would not be much inferior even when compared to the deputy association head. Naturally, his position far surpasses that of teacher.” Xue Mei sighed. Her heart was extremely shocked.

Xiao Yan also came to a sudden understanding when he heard this. If one added all the tier 4 alchemist in the Jia Ma Empire, there would at least be more than ten of them. However, there were only a few people who were tier 5 alchemists. Moreover it was difficult for an alchemist to advance from one tier to another. Some people might even remain in a certain tier for the rest of their life. It was likely that there was only one abnormal person in the entire continent who was like Xiao Yan who could rely on a ‘Heavenly Flame’ and Ya Lao’s rich experience.

The difference between a tier 4 and tier 5 alchemist was just like the difference between a Dou Ling and a Dou Wang. This was an enormous gap. Hence, the difference between them was naturally great. It was also difficult to compare the position between the two.

“Relax, I will be able to take care of myself properly. Just now, I lended you a hand because I could not help it. Ke ke, it’s fine...” Xiao Yan was also helpless when he saw the worry and anxiety on Xue Mei’s pretty face. He did not expect that his stepping out to help her would cause her more anxiety. At that moment, he could only laugh and comfort her.

“Hee hee, it’s fine? Little brat really knows how to talk big. It is likely that there aren’t many people in this capital who could hurt my student and say everything is fine!” A cold laugh sounded in the enormous hall of the association not long after Xiao Yan’s words sounded. A group of people immediately walked over in an aggressive and quick manner. That leader of the group was an old man who was wearing an alchemist robe.

There was a cauldron shaped badge on the front of his robes with five silver glowing ripples on the medicinal cauldron. Light shot in all directions as his robe flapped, appearing extremely eye-catching.

A tier five alchemist! He was actually so great. It really was the case of failing to recognize talent!

The human flow that was coming and going in the hall immediately paused when they looked at the badge that represented a kind of honor. Their faces were filled with respect and envy. That kind of expression... seemed...

Xue Mei's pretty face immediately changed slightly when she saw that old man. She felt extremely frustrated in her heart. Why was the speed of this old man, who would not die, so quick?

"He is the one called Fu Yan?" Xiao Yan ignored the surrounding gazes which seemed to be watching a good show as he turned to Xue Mei and asked with a smile.

"Yes." Xue Mei sighed in her heart as she looked at the old man who displayed a cold smile and anger on his face as he swiftly walked over. She bit the bullet and nodded her head before immediately whispering, "You should try to speak as little as possible. This old man should not dare to make things too difficult for the younger generation like us in public."

Xiao Yan was noncommittal when he heard this. It was really unexpected that the Alchemist Association would actually become more terrible during these three years. He really did not know how that old fellow Fa Ma was managing it.

During the time that Xue Mei was speaking softly to Xiao Yan, that Fu Yan brought a large group and headed to their front in an aggressive manner. The old man glanced at Xue Mei and immediately narrowed his old eyes to look at Xiao Yan. He turned his head to the pale-white Aoba beside him and asked, "Is it this fellow who attacked you?"

"That's right, teacher. Originally, I was competing with Xue Mei to purchase a medicinal ingredient to prepare to refine a medicinal pill as a gift for teacher's birthday. However, I did not expect that this fellow would

forcefully snatch away the medicinal ingredient when he appeared. He even launched a heavy attack and beat me up in this manner. Teacher, you must stand up for me!” Aoba immediately complained with a crying face when he heard Fu Yan. Of course, he naturally found an extremely sound reason for himself at such a moment.

“Elder Fu Yan, this matter...” Xue Mei hurriedly cried out. Her expression immediately changed when she heard Aoba speak such irresponsible lies.

However, before Xue Mei’s voice sounded, Fu Yan waved his hand and said faintly, “Xue Mei, this matter has nothing to do with you. You should not join in. Otherwise, you might go and say some nonsense to old Fu Ke Lan.”

“You are the one who attacked just now, right? It is really unexpected that you use such heavy blows despite your young age. Who is your teacher?” Fu Yan turned his gaze and threw it to Xiao Yan. He spoke in an old-fashioned cold voice.

Xiao Yan merely smiled when he saw this manner of Fu Yan. He said, “It is really unexpected that the quality of the association’s Elders is becoming lower and lower. Bullying others with numbers, taking advantage of one’s seniority... just a stinky old man...”

The hall immediately became much quieter when everyone heard Xiao Yan’s words that carried some ridicule. Was this brat’s courage not a little too great? He actually dared to mock Fu Yan in such a manner in front of the latter himself.

“What a sharp tongued youth... Good... Good.... Very good..... You have guts.” As expected, Fu Yan’s expression darkened. In his anger, he began laughing: “ If you can walk out of the Alchemist Association unharmed today, then will I, Fu Yan, still have face?”

“This old man is really irritating! Very irritating. Ignore him.” Zi Yan immediately became somewhat irritated when she heard Fu Yan’s blabberings. She covered her ears and spoke with curled lips.

The surrounding people smiled a little when they saw this jade-carving-like little girl suddenly say these words. However, all of them sensibly shut

their mouths when they saw the increasingly gloomy expression of Fu Yan.

Xiao Yan also gradually became impatient after seeing more and more people gathering around them to watch the scene. He was too lazy to say any nonsense to this old man. He pulled Zi Yan and Mei Xun, turned around, and left.

Fu Yan's expression immediately turned green when he saw this action of Xiao Yan. This was the first time that he had met such an arrogant young person after all these years. Fury immediately blew through him. A powerful, hot Dou Qi surged out of his body with an angry cry!

The powerful Dou Qi that erupted in an instant immediately caused the surrounding people to hurriedly take a couple of steps back, afraid of being innocently caught in the mess.

"Little brat, today, I will help your teacher teach you what is called respect for your teachers!" A fiery red Dou Qi curled and rose on his shriveled dried palm like a fierce fire. Fu Yan let out a sharp cry and his body flashed forward. He immediately turned into a fire figure that shot explosively toward Xiao Yan's back.

Quite a number of people in the hall emitted an exclamation when they saw that Fu Yan actually ignored his status and attacked a younger generation. Fu Yan was a genuine expert Dou Wang. There was hardly anyone who could contend with him even within this capital. Moreover, from the looks of the momentum of his angry attack, it seemed that this black-robed, young man would at least end up being seriously injured if he were struck.

Fu Yan moved close to Xiao Yan in a lightning-like manner just as this thought flashed across everyone's heart. However, the hand was just about to grab the latter's robe when Xiao Yan suddenly waved his arm. A sleeve of his cut through the air. The sleeve was as hard as metal after Dou Qi had poured into it.

"Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!"

The sleeves collided with Fu Yan's fist and a wind erupted out from the

point of contact. Immediately, everyone's face became shocked as they saw Fu Yan's body suddenly fly backward before finally smashing against the ground miserably. Everyone was stunned!

# Chapter 695: Meeting

The entire hall was completely silent in front of this somewhat unusual scene. It appeared that even Fu Yan was in disbelief at this scene and his face was completely shocked and dull. He had clearly sensed that the strength of the young man in front of him was ordinary, why...

Fu Yan climbed up from the ground miserably. His face was completely flushed red. Being turned into such a miserable state in public by a member of the younger generation had caused this proud person to become crazy.

“Bastard...”

Fu Yan clenched his teeth and cursed. He was just about to attack again when the slight sound of rolling-thunder reverberated out. He immediately felt his eyes suddenly become dazzled as an the expressionless black-robed, young man in front of him appeared by his side in a ghost-like manner.

The sudden appearance of the black-robed, young man caused the pores on Fu Yan’s entire body to open wide. He was just about to launch an attack when a long warm hand unknowingly appeared on his neck. That ice-cold voice caused his entire body to stiffen.

“You don’t have the qualification to represent my teacher in teaching me...”

Xiao Yan laughed coldly before he suddenly turned his head and spoke faintly while his gaze swept to a corner of the hall.

“Association head Fa Ma, I would not mind letting your Alchemist Association lose a tier 5 alchemist if you continue hiding by the side, watching the show...”

Everyone in the spacious hall was startled when they heard Xiao Yan’s words. They immediately turned their heads in a certain direction.

Helpless laughter sounded in the shadow in a corner under the focus of the gazes of the many people in the hall. Immediately, an old figure slowly

came sailing out and appeared in front of everyone's eyes. From the looks of his appearance, he was surprisingly the association head of the Alchemist Association, Fa Ma!

The deputy association head, Qie Mier followed close beside Fa Ma. There was also a girl wearing a green-colored alchemist robe beside Qi Mier. The girl had an elegant and moving appearance. She curled her red lips slightly, revealing a haughtiness. Her skin was as white as snow and a pair of intelligent bright eyes carried a slyness as they moved. Clearly, this woman was a quirky individual. At this moment, this girl's eyes were flickering with an unusual glow as she looked at the hall and conveniently looked at the black-robed, young man who had subdued Fu Yan.

"Ha ha, it has been three years since we last met. Is little brother Xiao Yan well?" This old man who managed the Jia Ma Empire's Alchemist Association revealed a smiling face in front of the public's gazes and inquired about Xiao Yan in a friendly manner. It was as though he did not notice the green-faced Fu Yan whose throat was being grasped by Xiao Yan.

This attitude of Fa Ma naturally caused everyone in the hall to be surprised. However, when the name, a name that had wildly spread and caused an uproar within the capital, left his mouth, everyone once again became stunned. They immediately came to a sudden understanding. The gazes that they used when they looked at the black-robed, young man once again had immediately become interested. No wonder this fellow dared to be so arrogant. He was actually the Xiao Yan. The person who had caused the Misty Cloud Sect to suffer great losses...

Fu Yan, who was being restrained by Xiao Yan, turned pale-white in an instant after hearing the form of address that Fa Ma used on the young man to his side. The anger in his eyes immediately disappeared. Back then, even the Dou Huangs from the Misty Cloud Sect had died to the hands of this person. He did not have the slightest doubt that Xiao Yan only needed a little prompt in order to break his head. Moreover, with Xiao Yan's strength, it was likely that the Alchemist Association would not adopt any retaliation measure even if Xiao Yan really did kill him. This

point could be clearly seen from the attitude of Fa Ma toward Xiao Yan when the former appeared.

Fu Yan's mouth trembled a little as he turned his furious gaze toward the already shivering Aoba by the side. If this bastard had not failed to open his eyes and offend such a person, why would he end up in such an embarrassing situation?

"Ke ke, association head Fa Ma, this Alchemist Association has really disappointed me after having not met for three years... collaborating with such a faction, I'm afraid..." Xiao Yan laughed softly before turning his head and spoke to Fa Ma who was slowly walking over.

Fa Ma laughed bitterly when he heard this, "Little brother Xiao Yan. Our association does indeed have some responsibility in this matter. Fu Yan has offended you. Therefore, you can deal with him anyway you like..."

Although these words of Fa Ma were a little soft but it gave Xiao Yan extremely great face. Moreover, he also knew that the current Xiao Yan was no longer that young man from back then who could be motivated to fight for the champion spot in the competition by just being given a medicinal formula. Given the latter's current ability and faction, he did have the qualification to enjoy such treatment. This was because the current Xiao Yan was worthy of being a truly strong person in Fa Ma's heart.

"Ha ha, little brother Xiao Yan. Fu Yan's character is originally somewhat reckless and fiery in nature. He did not intend to offend you... moreover, if we were to discuss about it, little brother Xiao Yan is also considered an honorary Elder in our Alchemist Association. We are all from the same side..." Qi Mier smiled and stepped forward to smooth things over.

Xue Mei was beside Xiao Yan as she watched these two extremely important people from the Alchemist Association step forward and speak to Xiao Yan in an extremely courteous tone that gave Xiao Yan a lot of face. Such treatment caused her to be amazed. Her gaze repeatedly drifted over Xiao Yan's body. She knew that Xiao Yan had become the champion

of the Alchemist Grand Competition back then. However, this alone would not be sufficient for alchemist grandmasters like Fa Ma and Qi Mier to treat him with such politeness. Moreover, from the way the conversation was proceeding, it seemed that they were willing to lose a tier 5 alchemist rather than coming into conflict with Xiao Yan. This caused her to be completely stunned. The young man who was chased out of the Jia Ma Empire by the Misty Cloud Sect back then actually possessed such abilities?

The eyes of the pretty girl beside Qi Mier flickered as she looked at the black-robed, young man whose face was still calm even when these two extremely important people of the association stepped forward. She felt absent-minded within her heart for a moment. The young man back then might have been outstanding, but he was merely a member of the younger generation who possessed some potential. However, within a short three years, he had already become an expert whom even association head Fa Ma had to treat in a courteous manner. This growth speed really did cause people to be quietly aghast.

“No wonder even great-grandfather said that this person’s achievements in the future would be extraordinary in the future back then...” The girl suddenly recalled a sentence that Jia Xing Tian had mentioned to her back then. At that time, she was still somewhat unconvinced. However, now even her proud self could not help but be completely convinced. Compared to the other young people from this generation back then, the current Xiao Yan had undoubtedly walked to a relatively high position.

Xiao Yan glanced indifferently at Fa Ma and Qi Mier. He subsequently looked at the pale-faced Fu Yan who did not even dare to move his body. He smiled, slowly withdrew his hand and softly said, “Since the two association heads have stepped forward, it is only natural that Xiao Yan will give both of you some face. Originally, today’s matter was some small problems among the younger generation. I had no choice since this Elder wanted to come running out by himself.”

Fu Yan’s expression immediately alternated between green and white when he heard Xiao Yan’s words.

“Ke ke, little brother Xiao Yan, thank you for letting Fu Yan off. The old me will privately settle this matter today and be accountable to you.” Fa Ma also sighed in relief and hurriedly spoke when he saw Xiao Yan did not really attack Fu Yan.

Xiao Yan waved his hand and stared at Aoba. This fellow should have already become aware that the most unlucky person would definitely be him when this matter was settled. Hence, his face was a ghastly white as though it was painted with white powder. He also did not expect that he would actually end up kicking such a hard metal plate today.

“Is everyone here?” Xiao Yan’s gaze turned to Fa Ma and asked, no longer lingering on the original topic.

“Ha ha, everyone is here. We are waiting for you.” Fa Ma smiled and nodded.

“Let’s go then...” Xiao Yan did not delay any longer after hearing this. He turned his head to Xue Mei and said with a smile, “I currently have some matters to deal with and will leave first. Help me say hi to grandmaster Frank when you see him.” Xiao Yan did not wait for Xue Mei’s response after saying this. He pulled Zi Yan and walked to the interior of the hall.

Xue Mei only recovered after Xiao Yan had turned around and left. The back of her teeth gently bit her lower red lip as she studied that tall skinny back. There was an unusual color flowing in her eyes...

Back then, when she had met Xiao Yan for the first time, the latter was still striving to become a tier 2 alchemist. With the quiet flow of time, Xiao Yan had unknowingly become an expert who was comparable to these top people of the empire. This kind of transformation could not be described as small. It was likely that Frank and Ao Tuo would also sigh emotionally should they know about his progress...

Xiao Yan followed Fa Ma’s group and turned into a couple of corridors before moving along the stairs and making the slow climb to the higher levels of the association.

During their walk, Xiao Yan, who had been chatting and smiling with Fa Ma and Qi Mier suddenly turned his gaze to the somewhat familiar

looking elegant girl at the side. He smiled and said, "We have not met for three years. Little Princess is becoming prettier and prettier."

The elegant girl was immediately startled when she realized Xiao Yan had suddenly acknowledged her. She slyly laughed, "It is really unexpected that an expert like you can still remember me. It is really my honor..."

Xiao Yan smiled as he looked at this girl who was still sort of quirky. A smile surfaced on his calm face as he sensed the tone of her words. Although these years of venturing out had given him an extremely rich appearance, it also turned him into someone like an old man. Who could imagine that he was actually not much older than the little princess. He recalled back then when a group of members from the younger generation were competing with each other to be the champion of the Alchemist Grand Competition. Now, the people who participated have changed.

Fa Ma and Qi Mier who were walking at the front, glanced at Xiao Yan who was happily conversing with the little princess. They were slightly startled before they immediately exchanged gazes. An unusual smile flashed across their eyes.

"Little princess's age... seems to be one where she should find a partner. This girl is extremely proud with extremely high expectations. Given Xiao Yan's ability, he is extremely compatible with her..." A thought suddenly appeared in the hearts of these two old men as they walked. They looked at one another before a sly fox smile lifted on the corner of their mouths.

Xiao Yan was naturally not aware of the thoughts of these two people. He sniffed the youthful scent that was scattered from the body of the girl by his side. He was quite happy that he could converse with someone much younger at this moment. However, when Fa Ma and Qi Mier stopped in front of a large door, he slowly ceased his conversations. He arranged his robes and his expression once again became as still as an old well. He knew that the people inside were all the top experts within the Jia Ma Empire. He could only look up to them back then. However, now he had the qualification to face them as equals or even look at them as inferiors...

“We’re here...”

Fa Ma smiled as he spoke. After which he exchanged glances with Qi Mier before he gently pushed open the door. They moved their bodies a little to the side and opened up a path to walk in.

# Chapter 696: Revealing Oneself

An unusual atmosphere covered a spacious and well lit large hall. A couple of human figures were seated within it. They would occasionally chat and smile, but even while they chatted, some of their gazes would involuntarily turn to the door. Clearly, they were a little absent-minded.

Although those people who were seated in this place were the leaders of the powerful factions within the Jia Ma Empire, they still felt somewhat ansty...

“Creak...”

The tightly shut door suddenly opened as the clear sound of a door opening quietly resounded across the hall.

The backbone of these people within the hall could not help but straighten after the door was opened. Their gazes instantly shifted before stopping at the entrance.

The tightly shut door was completely opened under everyone’s gazes. A moment later a black-robed figure who had been absent for three years entered their eyes.

“Everyone, we have not met for three years. Are you well?”

The black-robed person’s appearance and laughter was missing a sentimental tenderness from three years ago as it reverberated softly in the hall.

The reverberating laughter within the hall also caused everyone to throw their gazes toward the entrance. A black-robed, young man was standing with a smile at that spot. Sunlight shone into the hall through windows and coincidentally covered the young man in light. Under the sunlight, that somewhat familiar face revealed an additional maturity and reservation as well as a missing tenderness and vigor compared to three years ago.

Everyone in the hall faintly felt somewhat absent-minded as they looked at the black-robed, young man who was standing at the entrance. Three

years was not considered too long for them but in these short three years, the young man back then had completed a total transformation.

“Ke ke, little brother Xiao Yan, it is really unexpected that you have reached such a level after having not met for three years. It really makes the old me feel ashamed.” Jia Xing Tian was the first person in the hall to recover. He hurriedly stood up and spoke in a clear, loud voice.

There was still a lady wearing a luxurious gown seated elegantly beside Jia Xing Tian. From the beautiful appearance of her, she was naturally Yao Ye whom Xiao Yan had met that day. However, the latter had currently removed her phoenix crown and her entire person appeared to be less majestic and more like a woman.

At this moment, Yao Ye had also thrown her gaze over when the black-robed young man appeared. Her lips contained a somewhat moving smile.

Xiao Yan’s gaze glanced at the linen-robed old man and smiled. He slowly walked into the hall and said, “Jia Lao’s demeanor still remains the same.” While he spoke, Xiao Yan’s gaze also slowly swept across this bright hall. There were some other familiar faces other than Jia Xing Tian. There was Mu Chen from the Mu clan and the somewhat unnatural faces of Nalan Jie and Nalan Su from the Nalan clan...

“Little brother Xiao Yan, please take your seat. We are just waiting for you.” The head of the Mu clan, Mu Chen, looked at this tall black-robed, young man who appeared extraordinary before glancing at Mu Zhan beside him, who was already the most outstanding person among the younger generation of the Mu clan. He sighed in his heart. Three years ago, the two of them were still on the same line. Now, however, this gap...

Mu Zhan, who was seated beside Mu Chen, also sensed the latter’s gaze. He immediately rolled his eyes and looked at Xiao Yan who was around the same age as him. He was speechless in his heart. During these three years, he had been working extremely hard on his training. However, he was merely a seven star Dou Ling at this moment. This kind of achievement could indeed be considered quite good if placed in the Mu clan or any other clan. Yet, if he were to compare with Xiao Yan in front,

they were undoubtedly worlds apart.

“This fellow... I really don’t know how he trains. His strength actually rose so quickly?” Mu Zhan muttered in his heart. Back then, he could be considered to have exchanged blows with Xiao Yan at that party. The both of them had approximately the same strength back then. However, now this gap had extended to a somewhat frightening extent.

Xiao Yan also smiled when he saw the smiling Mu Chen. Although the Mu clan did not go all out to help him like the Primer clan did back then, the matter of Mu Tie still caused Xiao Yan to have a favorable impression of them.

Xiao Yan slowly walked into the hall. He smiled and greeted some people, and neglected only Nalan Jie and Nalan Su by the side whether intentionally or by oversight.

The smile on Nalan Jie’s and Nalan Su’s face was somewhat forced when they saw Xiao Yan finish his greetings with everyone before finding a chair beside Hai Bodong and taking a seat. This action of Xiao Yan clearly indicated that he still bore a grudge to their Nalan clan. However, given their clan’s past actions toward Xiao Yan, it was not wrong for them to receive such a treatment. Hence, the both of them could only act like mutes and not voice their bitterness as they stiffened their faces and sat down beside the table. The current Xiao Yan was no longer that tender young man back then. With the latter’s current strength, he no longer needed to view the Nalan clan too seriously.

Everyone in the hall had also taken notice that the Nalan clan was ignored. However, their expressions did not change and the laughing conversations were not reduced.

Fa Ma and Qi Mier also walked in from the outside not long after Xiao Yan took his seat. After which, they took their seats. With everyone seated, the leaders of the few strongest factions within the Jia Ma Empire had all gathered.

“I think that everyone should clearly be aware of the reason that I have gathered everyone here. Hence, I shall not beat around the bush.” Xiao

Yan raised his gaze and slowly spoke with a smile after everyone had taken their seats.

Everyone in the hall immediately paused their mouths after hearing Xiao Yan speak. They knew that the main event was about to begin...

"I have not been back for three years and did not expect the Misty Cloud Sect to have expanded to such an extent. This is indeed beyond what I had foreseen..." Xiao Yan was unconcerned at everyone's silence as he spoke faintly, "The Misty Cloud Sect has destroyed my Xiao clan and I will definitely avenge this blood feud. Hence, I, Xiao Yan, and the Misty Cloud Sect are in a situation where we won't stop until one of us dies. Today, I have invited everyone over in order to join hands and eliminate the Misty Cloud Sect, this empire's cancer!"

"Ke ke, mister Xiao Yan, the Misty Cloud Sect is indeed currently becoming more and more powerful. However, this does not seem to have an overly direct impact on us..." The first person who opened her mouth to speak after hearing Xiao Yan's words was Yao Ye who was sitting elegantly beside Jia Xing Tian. At this moment, this beautiful female emperor of the empire glanced at Jia Xing Tian beside her and immediately smiled as she said, "However, as a member of the imperial family, we are naturally unwilling to see any faction become too powerful and even result in the loss of an equilibrium. Hence, if mister Xiao Yan really has the confidence to deal with the Misty Cloud Sect, my imperial family can perhaps give some help in areas where our abilities are incorporated."

Xiao Yan smile and shook his head after raising his eyes to look at this woman whose words were calculated. He suddenly said, "Not long ago, when I passed through the 'Zhen Gui Pass' during my return to the Jia Ma Empire, I coincidentally met an Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect. At that time, that Elder was helping a deputy commander who belonged to the Misty Cloud Sect to snatch the spot of the commander... As soon as he could become the highest ranking commander in the 'Zhen Gui Pass', the troops that were stationed there would likely change to being under the command of the Misty Cloud Sect."

The expressions of Jia Xing Tian and Yao Ye drastically changed simultaneously when they heard Xiao Yan's words. They involuntarily cried out loud, "How can this be possible?"

Xiao Yan smiled when he saw the two of them whose faces had changed from the great shock. It seemed that Mu Tie had really yet to report the news.

"The commander of the 'Zhen Gui Pass' is called Mu Tie. I think the both of you should have some impression. He is someone from the Mu clan." Xiao Yan smiled as he said. "Whether things are true or otherwise, it is likely that news will arrive in another day to two..."

Yao Ye's and Jia Xing Tian's expression became somewhat volatile as they heard this. If this matter was true, did that not mean that the Misty Cloud Sect had truly began to act against the imperial family?

"I think that given everyone's information network, all of you should know a little about the wild ambition that the Misty Cloud Sect has displayed during these few years. When that time really comes in the future, all of you will have two choices. One is to be destroyed by the Misty Cloud Sect. The other is to surrender to them. Everyone's family assets are things that your ancestors fought hard for. I think that everyone would feel some guilt to your ancestors if you were to just surrender in this manner to the Misty Cloud Sect, right?" Xiao Yan's gaze swept over the entire place and spoke with a smile.

"Hence, I have called everyone here today just to further heat up the situation for everyone. Currently, the situation in the empire no longer allows for any neutrality." Xiao Yan crossed his ten fingers and softly spoke, "I will engage in a final decisive battle to the death with the Misty Cloud Sect. This great battle is extremely crucial to me. Hence, I will not allow any accidents to appear. Everyone must express their stance with Xiao Yan before this decisive battle..."

These words of Xiao Yan clearly told everyone that if he were to have a big battle with the Misty Cloud Sect, he would not be reassured if any faction within the capital were to simply observe from the side. After all, if

any accident were to occur and some faction were to launch a sneak attack from behind, it would likely cause quite the unexpected change to the big battle.

These words lacked some gentleness and had an additional overbearing feeling. However, no one seated felt that this pile of words was inappropriate. This was because they knew that the current Xiao Yan possessed such a qualification!

The atmosphere in the hall felt somewhat oppressive under Xiao Yan's words. Jia Xing Tian, Fa Ma, Mu Chen, Nalan Jie, and the others exchanged gazes with one another. All of them descended deep into thought. The choice of their position was not a game. Should they choose wrongly, they would definitely end up in destruction. Hence, even they had difficulty making a decision in a short while.

"Ke ke, my Primer clan will stand on Xiao Yan's side. The old me knows that even if one were to seek refuge with the Misty Cloud Sect, one would likely not come to a good end. The current Yun Shan, hee hee... everyone better think carefully." Hai Bodong laughed and spoke when he saw everyone hesitating.

Everyone curled their lips when they heard Hai Bodong's words. His Primer clan and the Xiao clan had basically reached a point where it was almost impossible to separate the two. He would naturally help Xiao Yan... although they thought along these lines, all of them still felt a little sour in their hearts. Back then, Hai Bodong was not the only person who had identified Xiao Yan as an extraordinary person. However, he was the only one who had the guts to risk offending the Misty Cloud Sect to lend him a hand...

"Cough... mister Xiao Yan, may I know what are your chances of victory in this big battle between the Misty Cloud Sect and you?" Mu Chen gently coughed before suddenly speaking. At this moment, the manner in which he addressed Xiao Yan had changed a little. The latter's age appeared to have been ignored by everyone at this moment.

Jia Xing Tian and the others hurriedly braced their ears when they heard

Mu Chen's question. If Xiao Yan wanted them to choose a side to stand on, it was only natural that Xiao Yan needed to reveal some trump cards that could reassure them.

"The chances of victory are fifty fifty..." Xiao Yan merely smiled and replied faintly as everyone opened their ears.

This chances of victory that were neither high nor low clearly caused everyone to become somewhat dissatisfied. Jia Xing Tian immediately laughed dryly as he said, "Although you have brought back quite a number of expert Dou Wangs this time around, the Misty Cloud Sect also possesses quite a number of Dou Wangs. Moreover, according to what we know, the Misty Cloud Sect has at least three elite Dou Huangs whose strengths are even stronger than Yun Du's and Yun Sha's. Of course, the most troublesome person is naturally Yun Shan. May I know if you have the confidence to deal with him?"

# Chapter 697: Wedding

Xiao Yan smiled when he heard this. He flicked his finger and a wisp of jade-green flame shot out of the window before disappearing.

A rushing sound suddenly sounded from outside the window just as everyone was feeling uncertain about his actions. Immediately, three figures rushed in. The three powerful auras that could stand shoulder to shoulder with an elite Dou Huang caused their expressions to immediately change a little.

“I naturally also have elite Dou Huangs...” Xiao Yan smiled faintly and pointed at Old Yin Gu and the other two who had appeared. However, his voice had just sounded when the space around him suddenly rippled. Immediately, a somewhat illusionary old figure gradually appeared in front of everyone’s stunned gazes.

“Of course, we also have an elite Dou Zong...”

Old laughter slowly sounded the moment that the illusionary figure appeared. A majestic aura that caused those seated to change their expressions drastically immediately surfaced like a rushing torrent of floodwater!

The sunlight passed through the window and landed on the somewhat illusionary old man. However, it did not form a slight figure on the ground. This situation appeared somewhat strange.

The human figure which had suddenly appeared and the eruption of the majestic aura that was not the least bit inferior to that of an elite Dou Zong caused everyone to descend into an alert state. Numerous gazes contained some shock as they tared at the former. An enormous wave flipped within their hearts...

Xiao Yan also revealed a stunned face in front of the complete silence. A moment later, he finally quietly rubbed his head and laughed bitterly as he said, “Teacher, why have you come out?”

Teacher? The manner in which Xiao Yan addressed this mysterious old

man immediately caused everyone's heart to leap violently. The eyes that they used to look at the latter became more unusual. They had clearly witnessed Xiao Yan's improvement over these years. Part of this might be because he possessed an excellent training talent. However, if one were to think carefully, it was likely that the help of this mysterious old man was also important.

"Ke ke, it's fine. Others will learn about it sooner or later." Yao Lao laughed. This was the first time that he had appeared in front of other people with the exception of Xiao Yan and Medusa. However, this action was not a random one. He knew that he would likely have difficulty hiding himself in the decisive battle between Xiao Yan and the Misty Cloud Sect. Since that was the case, what was the difference between appearing sooner or later? Moreover, by choosing to appear during such a time, he would undoubtedly become a heavy bargaining chip that would cause the hesitating Jia Xing Tian and the others to quickly decide on their stance.

Everyone became even more certain of the relationship between the two when they heard the conversation between Xiao Yan and Yao Lao. They involuntarily swallowed a mouthful of saliva before looking at each other. All of them felt somewhat shocked. It was unexpected that this fellow... was actually still in possession of such a trump card. No wonder he dared to challenge the Misty Cloud Sect.

Compared to Jia Xing Tian and the others, Hai Bodong and Old Yin Gu's group were even more shocked. This was because they were clearly aware that beside this mysterious old man, there was still an extremely powerful expert who could contend with an elite Dou Zong by Xiao Yan's side, Medusa!

If one were to put it this way, did that not mean that there were two ultimately powerful experts beside Xiao Yan who could stand shoulder to shoulder with an elite Dou Zong?

When they thought of this, Old Yin Gu, Su Mei, and Tie Wu looked into each other's eyes. Their eyes contained a fear as they rejoiced in their hearts that they had not come into a head-on conflict with Xiao Yan back in the 'Black-Corner Region'. Otherwise, it was likely that even they would

end up following Fan Lao's fate.

From the corner of the hall, Nalan Jie and Nalan Su also gradually recovered from the shock of Yao Lao's appearance. They looked at one another and inhaled a breath of cool air simultaneously. Their mouths were filled with bitterness. The greater the strength that Xiao Yan displayed, the greater the regret in their hearts would expand. Originally, he would have become their Nalan clans son-in-law. If everything went smoothly, the Nalan clan's power and influence would have been greatly boosted because of him. However...

Yao Lao absorbed all the expressions on everyone's faces within the hall. He waved his hand and sat in a chair beside Xiao Yan before he smiled and said, "You can just continue to discuss what you want to discuss. There is no need to be concerned about the old me..."

Upon hearing Yao Lao's words, everyone in the large hall, including Jia Xing Tian, hurriedly cupped his hands together. A Dou Zong and a Dou Huang were two experts from completely different levels. An expert of this level could be placed in the upper levels of the golden pagoda even when placed on the entire Dou Qi continent. All of them, however, could only be considered the middle-upper level.

"Ke ke, may I know how to address this senior? It seems that I have never met this senior in the Jia Ma Empire?" Jia Xing Tian cupped his hands to Yao Lao and spoke with a respectful smile.

"The old me is not someone from the Jia Ma Empire. Hei. I'm afraid that all of you had not been born when I was roaming the continent." Yao Lao laughed. His gaze immediately turned and swept toward Fa Ma in the hall. At this moment, the latter had descended into deep thought when Yao Lao appeared. He seemed to be trying to recall something.

"You are that little alchemist from back then right? I still remember your aura. After having not met you for so many years, you seem to have gained some ability..."

The soft laugh that was emitted from Yao Lao's mouth caused everyone in the hall to become dull. Fa Ma's body, however, suddenly trembled. He

was filled with disbelief as he lifted his head and involuntarily cried out, “You... you are the old man from back then?”

Yao Lao laughed and carelessly nodded. He saw Xiao Yan’s confused expression and said, “I met him back then when I was roaming the continent. However, at that time, he was merely a little older than you. Back then, the old me saw that he had some talent and helped him improve a little in my interest.”

Xiao Yan came to a sudden understanding. The faces of Jia Xing Tian and the others who heard Yao Lao’s words twitched a little. They immediately wiped cold sweat off their faces. This person... was likely considered a genuine old demon, no?

While everyone was wiping cold sweat, Fa Ma wore an excited face as he hurriedly got off his seat and knelt down toward Yao Lao from a distant. Yao Lao waved his sleeves just before both of Fa Ma’s knees were about to touch the ground. A gentle force lifted Fa Ma up. Yao Lao said, “There is no need to give me such a respectful greeting. I was merely just a little interested back then. You are able to have your current achievement because of your own hard work and talent.”

“I will never forget the favor of you enlightening me even in my death!” Fa Ma could only stand since he was unable to kneel and bow. He gave Yao Lao a bow that a member of the younger generation would use as he respectfully replied.

Qi Mi Er by the side also wiped off the cold sweat on his forehead when he saw Fa Ma actually greeted Yao Lao in such a grand fashion. Currently, Fa Ma was a genuine tier 5 alchemist. Yet this kind of achievement was merely because the old man in front had randomly enlightened him a little. It was difficult to imagine just what kind of frightening background this old man had...

Yao Lao merely helplessly shook his head when he saw that everyone was so frightened that their faces repeatedly emitted cold sweat. He waved his hand to everyone and immediately said, “Alright, alright, you should all discuss the important matters. Otherwise, this disciple of mine will blame

the old me for coming out to disturb his discussion... that's right, what Xiao Yan said earlier is true. There are some things that must be settled before the decisive battle with the Misty Cloud Sect. Hence, it is best that everyone think things through properly. You should all choose carefully for this stance of yours to be in your best interest..." There was a faint threat toward the end of his words. There was not a single person seated in the place whose expression did not change because of these words from an elite Dou Zong.

Yao Lao's smiled after his words sounded. His body immediately trembled and the illusionary body of his gradually became faint. After which, he strangely disappeared.

Xiao Yan could only helplessly shake his head after seeing Yao Lao disappear. He lifted his head to look at everyone before laughing, "Ke ke, I'm sorry. Teacher is always so straightforward."

Everyone hurriedly joined in laughter after hearing this. If they felt that the current Xiao Yan was worthy of them treating him seriously, Xiao Yan now possessed the qualification for them to look up to!

A teacher who had the strength of a Dou Zong. With this kind of background, why would he need to fear the Jia Ma Empire?

"So? Everyone, have you made your decisions?" Xiao Yan's fingers gently tapped the table before raising his eyes and suddenly asking.

The large hall once again became silent. A moment later, Fa Ma abruptly clenched his teeth and spoke in a deep voice, "The old man has done me the favor of enlightening me in the past. My Alchemist Association shall take a gamble this time around and do our best to help you fight with the Misty Cloud Sect!"

Fa Ma's words caused everyone to be startled. The Alchemist Association possessed a great reputation within the Jia Ma Empire. Xiao Yan's strength would undoubtedly soar with their help...

"Since association head is this bold, our Mu clan will also accompany you. In any case, the Misty Cloud Sect has disliked our Mu clan for a long time. They might not act now but our future fate is likely not going to be

good!” Mu Chen slammed the table in front of him, clenched his teeth, and fiercely spoke not long after Fa Ma’s voice sounded.

There were already three of the five large factions who had indicated their stance. All that was left was the imperial family and the Nalan clan.

Yao Ye knit her eyebrows tightly. Her gaze was exchanged with Jia Xing Tian before she immediately spoke with a clear voice, “Mister Xiao Yan, it is not impossible for our imperial family to aid you. However, please allow Yao Ye to ask a question here.”

“Princess Yao Ye, please feel free to speak.”

“The Misty Cloud Sect is indeed a large fierce tiger of our Jia Ma Empire. However, mister Xiao Yan’s faction is no longer weak now. It is even sufficient to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Misty Cloud Sect. Yao Ye wishes to ask this. If the Misty Cloud Sect were really eliminated in the future, will you... will you become another fierce tiger within the Jia Ma Empire? If this is the case, won’t our imperial family be in the same situation before and after this?” Yao Ye pretty face tightened. Her gaze looked at Xiao Yan but it was devoid of even a little fear.

These words of Yao Ye were undoubtedly extremely targeted. Hence, the atmosphere within the hall immediately became anxious once her voice sounded. Some people even quietly emitted cold sweat as they silently asked how could this girl be so bold...

Xiao Yan’s finger gently tapped on the table. He glanced at Yao Ye who was intently staring at him. Although Jia Xing Tian at her side did not move, Xiao Yan could still sense his suddenly tightened body.

“There will always be a divide between the strong and weak in any place. My faction might perhaps become a fierce tiger within the Jia Ma Empire in the future. However, I can guarantee this in front of everyone here. As long as the imperial family doesn’t try to do anything, I will definitely not do something similar to the Misty Cloud Sect’s attempt to snatch the authority in the empire.” Xiao Yan mused for a long time before his faint voice finally sounded.

Princess Yao Ye seemed to be somewhat dissatisfied with Xiao Yan’s

answer. However, just as she was about to open her mouth again, Xiao Yan's expression sank as he said, "Princess Yao Ye, you should also know that if I do not act this time around, your imperial family will be completely destroyed by the Misty Cloud Sect within a couple of months to a year's time. Hence, I hope that you will bring the matter to a close when things look good. Don't think that Xiao Yan is here to beg you to cooperate with me..."

Yao Ye's heart was startled when she heard Xiao Yan's words. Only at this moment did she remember that this cooperation was actually because Xiao Yan wanted to settle all of the hidden danger. Their participation in the battle or otherwise did not appear to be a decisive factor.

Under this threatening tone of Xiao Yan, Yao Ye eventually helplessly withdrew in defeat. Jia Xing Tian by the side also smiled and said, "Yao Ye is still young and it is only natural that she does not consider all aspects when she does things. I hope that mister Xiao Yan will not blame her. Ke ke, since everyone is in agreement, our imperial family will naturally not be excluded. My imperial family will definitely do our best to help destroy the Misty Cloud Sect this time around!"

Seeing that the imperial family had also stated their stance, Nalan Jie and Nalan Su could only open their mouths to indicate that they would also fight against the Misty Cloud Sect.

Xiao Yan sighed in relief within his heart when he saw that these old foxes had all finally agreed. He smiled and said, "In that case, I wish that we will be successful in our cooperation... additionally, I would like to make a request to everyone. Please do not leak the matter of my teacher out..."

Everyone hurriedly nodded when they heard this.

Hai Bodong also smiled when he saw that everything had been arranged appropriately. He was just about to speak when his expression suddenly changed. His hand beckoned toward the window and a messenger bird flew in and finally landed on his hand.

"It's information that Ya Fei had sent over." Hai Bodong removed the

slip of paper from the messenger bird and smiled toward Xiao Yan before immediately opening it. His expression immediately changed when he did so.

“What is it?” Xiao Yan frowned and asked when he saw this change.

Hai Bodong licked his lips. His gaze stared at Xiao Yan as he spoke in a deep voice, “That old fellow Yun Shan wants to hold a wedding in the Misty Cloud Sect.”

“Wedding? Whose?” Xiao Yan’s eyes narrowed slightly.

“Gu He and... Yun Yun...”

# Chapter 698: Mixed Bone Molding Pill

Xiao Yan's expression instantly and uncontrollably darkened when he heard these two names being spat out by Hai Bodong. His eyes flicked about and there was some anger faintly seeping out from them.

"Yun Shan wants to help Gu He and Yun Yun hold a wedding?" Everyone in the hall was also stunned when they heard Hai Bodong's words. They looked at one another in a speechless manner.

"This old fellow... what does he intend to do by doing such a thing now?" Mu Chen knit his brows and asked in a deep voice.

"What else? He is naturally planning to recruit Gu He at this moment. Gu He has become somewhat alienated in the Misty Cloud Sect after Yun Yun was locked up during these few years. He would occasionally use the excuse of searching for medicinal ingredients to leave. Moreover, he would remain away for extended periods of time." Jia Xingtian curled his lips and laughed coldly, "A tier 6 alchemist is someone that Yun Shan must treat respectfully even with his strength... however, it is really unexpected that he would actually be willing to use Yun Yun to trap Gu He."

"Gu He was always attracted to Yun Yun. However, in the past, the latter is a sect leader and was haughty in nature. Moreover, there was also too many things she needed to consider. Hence, Gu He could only treat her with respect in his capacity as an Elder and did not cross the line by even a little. A sharp-eyed person could see that it was merely one-sided on Gu He's part." Hai Bodong voiced his thoughts. He glanced at the gloomy face of Xiao Yan, being aware of some of the issues between Xiao Yan and Yun Yun. "Hence, this wedding might be completely controlled by Yun Shan. His intention is to completely pull Gu He, this alchemist grandmaster to the Misty Cloud Sect's side."

"Looking at the situation according to the feelings Gu He has for Yun Yun, he might really become a fang of the Misty Cloud Sect if this marriage is completed successfully..." Jia Xingtian frowned intently and spoke with a deep voice. They had made quite a lot of contact with Gu He

and naturally understood him quite well.

“However, Yun Yun has never held any special feelings for Gu He. She is also a haughty person. Unless Yun Shan uses some special tactics, it is likely that Yun Yun will not submit to marrying a person whom she doesn’t like.” Nalan Jie’s eyes looked at Xiao Yan’s expression before speaking.

Xiao Yan finally waved his hand after hearing the random discussion from everyone. The gloominess on his face had been suppressed until most of it had scattered. His eyes glanced at everyone before he slowly spoke, “Gu He possess an extremely great reputation within the Jia Ma Empire. It would likely be extremely troublesome if the Misty Cloud Sect has his help. Hence, we will naturally need to try our best to break this marriage... Old Hai, when is Yun Shan holding the wedding?”

“Two days from now.”

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes. A dark fog flashed across his eyes as he spoke faintly, “In that case, I would like everyone to prepare everything during these two days. Two days later will be the day that we will have our decisive battle with the Misty Cloud Sect!”

“So soon?” Everyone was shocked when they heard this.

“Once Gu He really stands at the Misty Cloud Sect’s side and gathers some strong people over, it is likely that it would be even more difficult to defeat the Misty Cloud Sect.” Xiao Yan shook his head and replied.

A couple of people mused for a moment when they heard Xiao Yan and could only nod their heads. If they gave Gu He sufficient time, it was likely that he might really gather quite a number of experts from all over the place.

“Mister Xiao Yan, as long as you are able to defeat the experts within the Misty Cloud Sect, you can leave the remaining disciples for our imperial family’s army to deal with. I will also quietly issue an order to some of the commanders and generals who control large armies during these two days and get them to quietly remove the Misty Cloud Sect’s spies and strength within the cities.” Yao Ye mused for a moment before she smiled and said

to Xiao Yan, “As long as mister Xiao Yan can kill Yun Shan, the remaining members of the Misty Cloud Sect will definitely be completely eliminated from the Jia Ma Empire...”

Although the imperial family could not compare with the Misty Cloud Sect in terms of high level experts, they, who possessed the empire’s machinery, would easily be able to eliminate the Misty Cloud Sect, that had lost its leader, from the empire.

“In that case, we will rely on princess Yao Ye at that time.” Xiao Yan merely smiled after hearing this. The Misty Cloud Sect was deeply rooted within the Jia Ma Empire. Only the imperial family who controlled the entire empire had the large resources to completely eliminate them. This point was something that Xiao Yan had no choice but to admit. If the imperial family were to be in charge of such a thing, their effectiveness would undoubtedly be many times greater than him.

“However... if Gu He is to really stand on the Misty Cloud Sect’s side...” Hai Bodong’s gaze looked at Xiao Yan, hesitated for a moment before speaking.

“I have said that the blood feud between the Misty Cloud Sect and I can only be resolved if one of us dies. There is no other method than this. Hence, no one is able to hinder me from destroying the Misty Cloud Sect. Gu He is also no exception.” Xiao Yan smiled faintly. Some dark, cold killing intent flashed across his dark-black eyes. “If he really wants to help the Misty Cloud Sect, we shall just attack and kill him together. Of course, this is a method that is used only as a last resort. He is an extremely proud person. I will use other methods to discourage him and get him to withdraw at that time...”

“We shall do as you say since you have already come to a decision. The Primer clan will do our best to help you two days later.” Hai Bodong patted Xiao Yan’s arm and spoke in a deep voice.

“The Alchemist Association will also do its best to help.” Fa Ma smiled and spoke to Xiao Yan. “This time around, the old me will bet everything on you.”

Xiao Yan grinned and nodded as he looked at the declaration of these two people. His gaze immediately swept toward Jia Xingtian and he randomly spoke with a smile, "I have heard that the imperial family has a guardian beast that is extremely strong. This matter is extremely important and I'm afraid that Jia Lan must bring it out."

Jia Lao was startled when he heard this. He exchanged gazes with Yao Ye before laughing bitterly as he said, "The imperial family does indeed have a rank 6 guardian Magical Beast with a strength that is comparable to a seven or eight star Dou Huang. However, it is likely to have difficulty participating in the battle."

"Why?" Xiao Yan frowned. A Magical Beast that was comparable to an eight star Dou Huang possessed an extremely great fighting strength. Among those present, it was likely that only Jia Xingtian and Hai Bodong after he recovered his peak strength could contend with it.

"Mister Xiao Yan, this is not because our imperial family is holding back. Instead, it is because the Secluded Sea Scaly Beast fought for our imperial family for many years, resulting in its body to be filled with hidden injuries. Its injuries erupted some time earlier and its condition is extremely apathetic. Its strength is not even half of what it was at its peak. It is likely that it would not have much of an impact." Yao Ye pressed her lips and softly spoke when she saw Xiao Yan's frown.

"Injuries?" Xiao Yan lifted his eyebrows. However, he spoke with a smile, "Perhaps I can help. After all, everyone should not forget that I am also an alchemist."

Yao Ye and Xingtian Tian continued to smile bitterly after hearing his words. They said, "We know that mister Xiao Yan is also an alchemist. However, we even invited association head Fa Ma to take a look back then. However, he said that in order to completely cure the Secluded Sea Scaly Beast, we would need a kind of medicinal pill called the 'Mixed Bone Molding Pill'."

"Mixed Bone Molding Pill?" Xiao Yan muttered in his mouth.

"This kind of medicinal pill has extremely noticeable effects on the

injuries of a Magical Beast. However, it is of a relatively high tier. It has reached that of a full-tier 6 medicinal pill. Even someone of my ability would have difficulty successfully refining a medicinal pill of this tier. Hence..." Fa Ma by the side helplessly opened his mouth to speak, "It is likely that the only one in this Jia Ma Empire who can refine this kind of medicinal pill is Gu He. However, the imperial family currently has a stiff relationship with the Misty Cloud Sect. It is clearly not quite possible to ask him to help refine it."

Jia Xingtian sighed. If not for the great decline in strength of the Serene Sea Scaly Beast, he would also not need to be this afraid of the Misty Cloud Sect.

"Leave the matter of the medicinal pill to me... since all of us are in the same boat, I will naturally not be selfish." Xiao Yan mused for a moment before he suddenly replied.

Everyone was startled when they heard this. Numerous stunned gazes swept toward Xiao Yan. Asking him to refine a tier 6 medicinal pill? If this was the case, did it not mean... this fellow's medicinal refinement skills had actually broken through to the sixth tier within a short three years?

Compared to everyone's stunned looks, Fa Ma's and Qi Mier's expressions were exceptionally interesting. Being alchemists, they were extremely clear just how difficult it was to increase one's alchemy tier. However, this fellow in front of them had leaped from a tier 3 alchemist to a tier 6 alchemist within three short years. This kind of speed could only be described as frightening...

"No wonder he is able to obtain the favor of that old man. This talent is really something that no one could match up to..."

"Although the 'Mixed Bone Molding Pill' is a tier 6 medicinal pill, it is not extremely difficult to refine. With my current medicinal refining skills, I should have quite a high chance of success." Xiao Yan ignored all the stunned gazes from around him and said with a smile, "Jia Lao can send someone to bring the medicinal ingredients over later. I will naturally hand over the medicinal pill tomorrow."

Jia Xingtian and Yao Ye exchanged looks after seeing Xiao Yan's face which did not appear to be joking. They had difficulty hiding the joy between their brows as they hurriedly responded courteously. As long as they were able to allow the Serene Sea Scaly Beast recover its strength, the strength of the imperial family would naturally soar once again. If this were to be the case, it would cause them to be much calmer.

"I will immediately dispatch someone to send the medicinal ingredients to mister Xiao Yan after this. We do not care about the success rate as long as mister is able to refine it. The imperial family is fine no matter how many medicinal ingredients are used." Yao Ye joyfully laughed. Her tone appeared exceptionally extravagant. Although the medicinal ingredients used to refine the 'Mixed Bone Molding Pill' were no ordinary items, it was naturally not a problem for the rich stores of the imperial family.

Xiao Yan smiled while looking at the two joyful people. He said, "The two of you need not thank me. You will be taking quite the risk in this decisive battle with the Misty Cloud Sect. Naturally, the more strong individuals the better. If that Serene Sea Scaly Beast is able to recover its strength, it would be a great help to us."

Yao Ye and Jia Xingtian hurriedly nodded when they heard this. The old man smiled until he could not shut his mouth. They did not lose out in this cooperation...

Xiao Yan sighed in relief only after seeing that most of the things were settled. He threw his gaze out of the window and looked afar. His faint voice reverberated beside everyone's ears.

"I would like to ask everyone to gather all the fighting strength they can during these two days. Two days later, this large joint army of ours will fight to the death with the Misty Cloud Sect!"

# Chapter 699: The Xiao Clan's Mansion

Hai Bodong and Xiao Yan bid everyone goodbye and left the Alchemist Association after having completed the meeting. The former returned to the Primer clan while Xiao Yan followed the road and walked to the most bustling area in the middle of the city. At this moment, there was a new inscription board being hung above the main entrance of a large compound at this location. The flamboyant characters written on it caused quite a number of passersby on the streets to involuntarily pause and take a look.

“Xiao Mansion!”

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head when he saw that there was a large group of people surrounding the compound outside when he arrived. He could only flash and rush in over the wall.

A couple of rushing wind sounds suddenly appeared when Xiao Yan's figure had just crossed the compound's wall. However, Xiao Yan did not dodge. He flicked his finger and a rushing wind easily received the attacks of the four black figures who had shot out from the shadows.

“There is no need to panic. It's me.” Xiao Yan randomly defeated the four black figures and spoke with a smile.

The four black figures immediately knelt with one knee on the ground and spoke respectfully upon hearing the familiar voice, “Chief! Sorry for offending you!”

“Ke ke, not bad...” Xiao Yan flicked his sleeves gently and smiled and did not blame them in any way. He waved his hand toward the four of them and followed the small path in the compound as he slowly walked into its interior.

This mansion that Xiao Li had found far exceeded the Xiao clan home in Wu Tan city both in terms of size and style. Due to the members in the clan having been greatly diminished, such a large compound ended up appearing a little empty and quiet.

Xiao Yan walked along the small path for a moment before a spacious living room appeared in his sight. There was faint laughter being transmitted from within the hall.

Xiao Yan slowly walked toward the living room, gently pushed open the door, and entered. Xiao Li and Xiao Ding, who were giving orders to the servants to clean the place, turned around to take a look when they heard the sound of the door being opened. They smiled and went over when they saw whom it was Xiao Yan.

“How is it? This mansion is not bad right? One cannot just rely on money if one wanted to purchase this kind of large mansion in such a place.” Xiao Li looked at Xiao Yan who was observing the place. This golden belt was mostly held in the hands of some large merchants with quite a strong background. However, the strength that Xiao Yan currently possessed in the Jia Ma Empire was already enough to compare with a large being like the Misty Cloud Sect. These merchants naturally did not dare to find any objections to Xiao Li when he wanted to purchase this piece of land. They did not dare to even raise the price too high.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan nodded his head. Although this large compound could not be compared with the grand manor of the Primer clan, he was still quite satisfied with it. He immediately laughed softly, “Not bad, this place shall be the headquarters of our Xiao clan in the future...”

Xiao Li also sighed in relief when he saw Xiao Yan nod his head.

“Third brother, how was the meeting today?” Xiao Ding, who was seated on a wheelchair, smiled and asked Xiao Yan a question.

“Everything progressed smoothly. We will be able to gather the people and fight to the death with the Misty Cloud Sect after two days.” Xiao Yan smiled as he replied.

“Two days from now?” Xiao Ding was startled when he heard this. He immediately frowned and said, “Why the rush? Don’t tell me that there is some secret that others cannot be aware of?”

“Yun Shan is planning to marry Yun Yun to Gu He and use this to firmly tie Gu He to his side. If we were to truly allow them to successfully marry,

it is likely that things would be more troublesome in the future. Hence...” Xiao Yan slowly replied. The smile on Xiao Yan’s face was greatly reduced upon mentioning this.

“Yun Shan wants to marry Yun Yun to Gu He?” Xiao Li and Xiao Ding involuntarily cried out loud. Their expressions changed slightly when they heard Xiao Yan’s words.

“I know... yes... yes... it is really too reasonable. Why did I not think of it?”

Xiao Ding’s expression sank as his finger gently tapped on the armrest of the wheelchair. He spoke solemnly, “If that is the case, there will indeed be some trouble. Gu He is not an ordinary person. His ability to gather people within the Jia Ma Empire is likely something that even Fa Ma from the Alchemist Association would have difficulty achieving. Once he is controlled by the Misty Cloud Sect, Yun Shan will have a lot more bargaining chips.”

“What do you want to do? What else can you do?” Xiao Li’s gaze turned toward Xiao Yan as he asked multiple questions.

“We must naturally not allow this wedding to be successfully completed.” Xiao Yan smiled faintly. His lowered eyes was somewhat sharp at this moment as he said, “I will think of ways to settle Gu He two days later. At the very least, we must force him until he is unable to intervene in the matters of the Misty Cloud Sect.”

Xiao Ding and Xiao Li exchanged looks with one another after hearing this. Since this fellow had a plan, there was no longer a need for them to say anything...

“The both of you should settle in the clan members during these two days. Leave the matter of the Misty Cloud Sect to me.” Xiao Yan patted both of their shoulders and laughed.

“I am indeed unable to be of much help on such matters. However, you must remember that you are currently the pillar of support for the Xiao clan. The Xiao clan will only have the hope of prospering as long as you are still alive...” Xiao Ding glanced at Xiao Yan and slowly spoke.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. There was a servant who suddenly walked in to report while the three of them were conversing. It was because Yao Ye had personally delivered the medicinal ingredients needed to refine the 'Mixed Bone Molding Pill'.

"It is really unexpected that their speed is so quick. Looks like the imperial family views the Serene Sea Scaly Beast with great importance..." Xiao Yan muttered to himself and sent someone to invite Yao Ye in.

There was naturally a round of greetings when the two met before Yao Ye handed over the medicinal ingredients that had been prepared to Xiao Yan.

The medicinal ingredients that Yao Ye had prepared were stored in a low grade storage ring. Xiao Yan scanned through it and involuntarily smacked his mouth within his heart. There was actually enough medicinal ingredients inside to refine ten 'Mixed Bone Molding Pill'. The imperial family really did generously spend their money to fix this matter.

Yao Ye only stayed for a little after delivering the medicinal ingredients before taking her leave.

Xiao Yan sent Yao Ye off with his eyes. After which, he gave some instructions to Xiao Ding and Xiao Li before turning around to enter the inner yard. He found a quiet chamber before instructing people not to disturb him...

Xiao Yan exhaled a long breath after shutting the door to the chamber. He narrowed his eyes and tightened his fists under his sleeves.

"Hei, old dog Yun Shan... this act of yours is really quite vicious. Dammit. An anxious dog would even leap over a wall. An anxious rabbit would even bite someone... you are forcing me to ascend the Misty Cloud Mountain two days from now."

The dark-black ring on Xiao Yan's finger trembled and Yao Lao's illusionary figure slowly drifted out. He glanced at Xiao Yan before saying, "The Misty Cloud Sect will have homeground advantage since the battleground will occur in the Misty Cloud Mountain. Moreover, they also have the advantage in terms of numbers. Hee hee, looks like Yun Shan is

extremely afraid of you. Otherwise, he would not put in so much effort...”

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. There were many people in the Misty Cloud Sect and they even knew how to combine and form formations. Xiao Yan had personally experienced the strength of the formation formed back then, so he naturally understood the strength of such a thing.

“It is likely that Yun Shan is aware of the relationship between Yun Yun and you. This act of him might well be intending to anger and disturb your frame of mind...” Yao Lao voiced his thoughts. Being experienced and sharp, he was naturally able to see through the intentions of Yun Shan in a glance.

Xiao Yan was silent. Even he admitted that his state of mind was chaotic and furious when he heard that Yun Yun and Gu He were to be a wed. Clearly... he was unable to truly act as though they were strangers when it came to Yun Yun. The reason why he decided that the decisive battle would be held two days from now was partly because he was somewhat worried that Gu He would really stand by the Misty Cloud Sect’s side, but he could not deny that deep within his heart... he also possessed another thought.

Back then, Xiao Yan had met Yun Yun, who was using the name Yun Zhi at that time, in the Magical Beast Mountain Range when he was traveling as a young man. The spring-like scene in the cave, the favor of giving the armor as well as Yun Zhi taking the risk to rescue him a couple of times. All of these entanglements caused Xiao Yan to be unable to completely forget her regardless of how hard-hearted Xiao Yan was...

Yao Lao sighed softly as he looked at Xiao Yan’s changing expression. He flipped his hand and a wisp of dense-white flame strangely surfaced from the ring before suspending itself in front of him.

“You should put this on...” Yao Lao flicked his finger and the dense-white ring flew toward Xiao Yan before being accurately caught by the latter.

“This is? What is this? Don’t tell me...” Xiao Yan was uncertain as he looked at the dense-white ring in his hand. An icy-cold feeling that was

mixed with an unusual heat surfaced in Xiao Yan's heart.

“This is a ring that is constructed from my ‘Bone Chilling Flame’. There is quite a large amount of ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ stored in it. However, it can only be stored for five days before it will automatically scatter and disappear...” Yao Lao smiled as he continued, “Experts from the ‘Hall of Souls’ might appear in the big battle with the Misty Cloud Sect this time around. I will intervene and stop them at that time. However, I will not be able to lend my ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ to you then. Hence, this ring is in preparation...”

“The ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ in it is enough for you to only use the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ once. Hence, try your best not to use it unless you have no other choice...”

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He nodded slightly. Even Yao Lao was somewhat worried about that fierce battle two days from now...

“The great battle with the Misty Cloud Sect will occur two days from now. It is pointless to think too much about it. Hence, you should try your best to raise the fighting strength on your side.” Yao Lao smiled and comforted after seeing the somewhat depressed Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan nodded quietly and took out the Storage Ring that Yao Ye had sent over. He softly spoke, “In that case, I will first refine that ‘Mixed Bone Molding Pill’ first. If we are able to get the Serene Sea Scaly Beast to recover its strength, it would undoubtedly provide massive support to us.”

Yao Lao nodded slightly and smiled. “Coincidentally, I have not seen you refine medicinal pills for a long time. Today, I shall see just how much your medicinal refinement skills have improved... since you possess two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flame’, it should be extremely smooth for you to refine a medicinal pill.”

Xiao Yan smiled in a dumbfounded manner after hearing Yao Lao's evaluation. He leaped onto the bed, waved his hand and took out the crimson beast medicinal cauldron he had obtained from Han Feng. After it flashed and appeared, Xiao Yan flicked his finger and a dark-green flame appeared before finally entering the medicinal cauldron...

Following the entrance of the jade-green flame, the temperature within the chamber gradually rose. The flame was imprinted on the walls, setting off the chamber like an oven...

# Credits

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